THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

Vol. 27 No. 22 ★ February 1, 2008



Gary Clark Jr.

Black & White & Blues All Over

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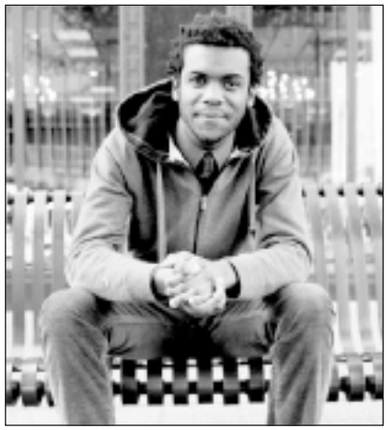
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NEW THIS WEEK!

EARACHE!: New photo blog **DOWN ON THE STREET** exposes the secret life of record store clerks, breaking a sweat with Shut Up, plus more wax

PICTURE IN PICTURE: Marginalia does the **'DANCE**

CHRONIQUE: Tossing with the **KREWE OF BABALU**, **FONT FUN**, and more design blog drift

Chronic is now your one-stop blog shop for buzz on politics, sports, music, film, television, gaming, technology, design, gay stuff, and – do we even need to say it? – opinion. Our blogs as you knew them still exist, but now all posts will also feed into one crazy mash-up – newest on top, just like you like it.

THE GAY PLACE: **LAZY LEZ BONS TEMPS THE ROULER.** Plus: The Kates & friends will go gay for beads.

NEWSDESK: What awaits **MARC OTT**, City Council Notebook, and brushing up on our Texas (Confederate) history

THE SCORE: Sofia Resnick on the **LONESTAR ROLLERGIRLS** 2008 season opener, and more sports blatherings and whatnot from here and afar

WX web extra

For this week's Web extras and more Web exclusives, go to:

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Kings of Mean

The worst legacy of this administration is the terrible behavior it fostered in its citizens

BY LOUIS BLACK

"In everything that can be called art there is a quality of redemption. It may be pure tragedy, if it is high tragedy, and it may be pity and irony, and it may be the raucous laughter of the strong man. *But down these mean streets a man must go who is not himself mean, who is neither tarnished nor afraid.*"

– Raymond Chandler, "The Simple Art of Murder" (emphasis mine)

"Ladies and gentlemen … the president of the United States."

"Fella Americans [sputters out, coughing]."

"He's been sick."

– Frank Zappa, "Plastic People"

Last week this column was about the sheer, unembarrassed atavism of the current administration. Under its leadership, there has been a triumphant embrace and open parading of attitudes that had come to be considered unacceptable in any public discourse. Racism; sexism; religious intolerance; unpatriotic, overly militant "patriotism"; and the kind of hostility on the part of some Americans toward others that was more reminiscent of the Red Raids of the 1920s and the paranoid hostility of the McCarthy era than anything since the latter. This is not to argue that American attitudes had so profoundly changed but that the overall public discourse had become more moderate. If one wants to argue that this was a hypocritical construct – to say that what one thought, rather than what one felt, was right – I vigorously disagree. The feelings being suppressed were of the most bigoted, socially unhealthy, and politically destructive sort; the language was reaching toward the light. There was a reasonable sense that the gut would follow the mind, that base instinct would eventually yield to cherished principles. The Bush years gave a red light to the latter and more than a green light to the former, actively celebrating its return to prominence in American political discussion.

Accompanying this reactionary miscasting of the country's social and political problems has been a calculated, semantic assault. Political/social words have come to mean the opposite of their long-established uses. This has been especially true of progressive words – the vocabulary whose purpose was to bring daily American life more in line with the ambitions of the Declaration of Independence. The prideful glee with which some right-wing political and religious conservatives are combining both of those comes across as pure, cynical nastiness.

When, in a January 2005 ruling, the United States Supreme Court allowed the University of Michigan to use the most mild affirmative-action standards in considering applications for admission, this publication received (as did so many publications across the country) letters bitterly decrying the decision as the final nail in the coffin of Martin Luther King's dream. Although there are minority politicians, community leaders, professionals, and citizens who are against affirmative action for any number of reasons, most of these letters, I suspect, did not come from seasoned veterans of a deep civil rights commitment, with long histories of activism.

Rather, they mostly seemed to come from those opposed to affirmative action who were grabbing the opportunity to use bland generalizations, combined with Martin Luther King's words, to assault continuing efforts toward genuinely colorblind civil rights. As I wrote last week and have written before, there are so many who don't trust government to do anything, especially massive social engineering projects, who claim civil rights legislation as the exception. Those who are enraged by the social safety net, as well as any massive government efforts to have an impact on social arrangements, declaring them failures before they have begun, will without embarrassment champion this exception. They will claim that racism disappeared and full equality for all was immediately achieved in the mid-Sixties, after the most important civil rights legislation was passed. This is blatant nonsense, and even to say that it is questionable that any of these speakers really believe this is to give them a lot more than just the benefit of the doubt.

What Martin Luther King Jr. said was "I have a dream." Not "I have a vision" or "Let me give you this prophecy" or even "We demand …". A dream is usually not very specific, especially when it comes to time. A dream doesn't end because of one judicial decision or because of more than 100 years of state-sanctioned oppression. A dream lives on, often gaining in strength and glowing more brightly when its cause suffers setbacks.

King had a dream; we all know what a dream is: a wish, a hope, an imagined place. Segregation ruled, and Jim Crow was the standard social condition of the South for 100 years, but that didn't drown dreams. Civil rights workers were murdered, blacks attempting to vote were intimidated, and school boards did everything they could think of to block integration, but the dream lived.

A dream can't be killed; a dream doesn't die. A dream is strengthened by every victory, but defeats don't drench it, either, as they are expected.

This was a dream that flew above blood and death, bigotry and oppression, screams in the night and constant, gut-wrenching poverty. Those who bemoaned the death of the dream after the most marginal of affirmative-action allowances was passed didn't really believe in the dream. They couldn't have. They were pretending. The dream doesn't just survive hatred but was built specifically because of it.

Wasn't this dream nurtured by certain men and women for generations back? Wasn't it specifically laid out in the Declaration of Independence? Isn't the dream ideally expressed as "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"?

It is important that these rights are "self-evident" and that they are also "unalienable."

Those who shared the dream worked to end slavery, to advance public education, to earn women and minorities the right to vote. They organized mistreated workers into labor unions, fought against bigoted anti-immigrant legislation, stood up to systemic oppression, and, in every case, they lost many battles, were beaten and killed, and were defeated in the courts and on legislative floors before they achieved even the smallest victories.

They didn't stop! They kept moving forward: in marches through communities that didn't care for them, in cities where they were attacked by police with clubs and wielding fire hoses. They watched their friends, their children, and themselves be severely beaten and sometimes killed. They didn't stop dreaming. Those with this dream saw their churches burned and four young girls in Birmingham, Ala., murdered. They saw the massacre of women and children in Ludlow and the wholesale jailing of labor organizers, but their dreaming slowed not at all.

Martin Luther King Jr. spoke the dream, but it was not his alone. It belonged to generations of Americans who dreamed of a better, more just world. Their dreams didn't die; they were not turned back in their demand for fealty to the ideas of the Declaration. The dream survived centuries of slavery and decades of segregation, expanding in scope, with always more dreamers joining the ranks. Oppression strengthened the dream. Generations owed the generations before them for their enduring belief in this dream.

continued on p.6

Oops! Last week's "**Looking for 'Real' Democrats**" mistakenly reported that Fidel Acevedo won the endorsement of the South Austin Democrats for chair of the Travis County Democratic Party. Actually, he won the endorsement of the Southwest Austin Democrats. The South Austin Democrats endorsed Andy Brown for party chair. Also, we misidentified sculptor Peggy Maceo as Pam Maceo in last week's "**Dinosaur-Track Rescue Mission Under Way at UT … Slowly**." The *Chronicle* regrets the errors.









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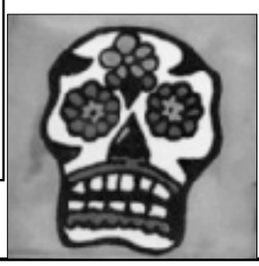
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PAGE TWO :: FROM P.4

The dreamer himself, the one who spoke it, was murdered in Memphis, but the dream lived.

The only ones who would be ready to declare this dream dead were those who never had it. Welcome to Bush's America, where those who don't dream claim to be dreamers, where those who don't believe claim to be believers, where those who do not love or even respect the ideals and ideas this country has been built upon claim to be its truest patriots.

Their argument, of course, is that affirmative action is racist. The scenario is that more than two centuries of slavery and another hundred years of segregation, which is institutionalized oppression, are minor irritants that blacks should get over. After all, many of them say, "My family never owned slaves, so my hands are clean." They go on that maybe now blacks have minor grievances – but look how carried away they get with marches, speeches, demands, and demonstrations. The argument is advanced that they should accept the immediate, universal equality that followed the passage of civil rights legislation and not demand special, privileged treatment.

These "visionaries" don't exactly practice what they preach. Consider that when many whites feel that they have been discriminated against because of race, they join "militias," take to wearing Nazi uniforms, practicing with weapons, and playing soldier in the woods. They read *The Turner Diaries* and dream of the day minorities, liberals, progressives, and feminists, as well as any and everyone else who disagrees with them, will be hanging from lamp posts across the nation and the United States will finally be free to be the nation it is supposed to be. Which, unfortunately, is not the nation described and created by our founding fathers in the Declaration and Constitution, as well as all the following generations who championed those ideals.

Read the first quote at the beginning of this column. In it, Raymond Chandler is talking about the hard-boiled detective, but its meaning is greater and more universal.

If in order to fight meanness we become mean, then all is lost.

Beginning on 9/11, this country has followed an agenda set by those 19 terrorists. When one force lets another force set the agenda, all is over before it has begun. I'm still at a loss to imagine what has happened since that would not give them the greatest pleasure, especially in knowing how completely they achieved their aims.

The worst heritage of this truly terrible, destructive, incompetent, and failed administration will be its embrace of meanness in the wake of 9/11. Not just meanness toward our enemies and toward terrorists, not just toward our friends and allies, but the meanness that one group of Americans was encouraged to display toward other Americans. ■

POSTMARKS

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Are Gay Politicians Targeting African-Americans?

Dear Editor,

Just because a nation adheres to democratic principles does not necessarily mean an equitable distribution of political power. White voters determine who wins political offices in Texas, Travis County, and Austin. Sometimes a democracy is not fair even when it plays by the rules. The state of Texas, Travis County, and Austin realized the political process had evolved into a pseudo-democracy that disallowed political accessibility to African-Americans and Hispanics.

As a result, Austin's racially diverse leadership and white voters during the Seventies allowed Hispanics and African-Americans to run for political office and win. That agreement was unofficially called the gentlemen's agreement. These inclusions of African-Americans, as well as others, to political offices have been a necessary component for the betterment of Austin, Travis County, and Texas.

Lee Nichols wrote an excellent article, "Tax Assessor-Collector Race Gets Dirty" [News, Dec. 15, 2007], highlighting incumbent Nelda Wells Spears and Glen Maxey, who are running for Travis County tax assessor-collector. Glen Maxey, who is white and openly gay, is trying to eliminate another minority from political office. Obviously, gay politicians perceive African-American officeholders as vulnerable.

Is it a coincidence that three openly gay politicians have tried or are trying to unseat African-American officeholders? Celia Israel is an openly gay politician who teamed up with Glen Maxey to remove one of Travis County's most productive commissioners, Ron Davis, from office in 2004. Brian Thompson is challenging incumbent state Rep. Dawnna Dukes, who is doing an excellent job in a Republican-controlled House. Moreover, Glen Maxey has his sights set on removing Tax Assessor-Collector Nelda Wells Spears, from office. Nelda's performance during her long tenure as Travis County tax assessor-collector is outstanding. The African-Americans have a problem.

Louis Simms

Union Will Monitor ACC

Dear Editor,

I am the president of ACC/AFT Union 6249. I was the union representative at the Austin Community College meeting held on Dec. 17 before the *Chronicle* published its article on Room 221 at the Rio Grande campus on Dec. 21 ["Return to ACC's Room 221," News]. I did not know some of the information that was in the article. However, the union officers have been

continued on p.8

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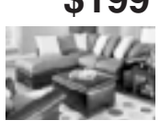
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THE NEW YEAR FLYER

Every Saturday during January and February, the Hill Country Flyer will depart from the Cedar Park Depot at 10:00 AM. Enjoy a 2½ hour layover in Burnet before returning at 4:30 PM.

The Hill Country Flyer resumes its Saturday and Sunday service in March. Plus, join us for our Spring Break Special to Bertram on March 11. This 4-hour round trip is the perfect way to spend a relaxing day over spring break!

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Legalize LA

provided with the pictures taken of Room 221 during fall 2007 and the lab test samples taken in 2007. One of our members has filed a First Amendment rights violation lawsuit against the college regarding his right to speak about the mercury issues at the Rio Grande campus, and another union member with potential mercury-related health problems is expected to return to work in that room.

Due to the history of Room 221, we still have doubts about the remodeling project. See the letter to the editor entitled "More to the Story" dated Jan. 4 ["Postmarks"] for some of the specific details and long-term reasons for our ongoing safety concerns.

We will continue to monitor the project. Union officers and others have visited the site throughout the past few months.

Cleaburn Zwernemann

Prayers and Appreciation for APD

Dear Editor,

Our mornings usually start off the typical American way. Shut off the alarm, drag out of bed, and get that coffee down.

Not so on Tuesday, Jan. 22.

At about 6am, we awoke to an explosion. We heard three more booms, each accompanied by flashes of light bright as the sun.

"Gun shots! Hit the floor!"

My boyfriend called 911 as I crawled to the hallway away from the windows.

He looked out the front door and said: "The SWAT team's at Canada's house! They're finally gonna get the bastard!"

We went together outside to witness what the Montopolis neighborhood has been praying for: shutting down the most active crack dealer in town! The armored SWAT tank was there, the fully geared officers, and an EMS truck was on standby. The house was totally lit up inside, and officers were searching the perimeter. As we watched, a SWAT commander was headed our way. I could hear him on the phone reporting to headquarters that a bust was just executed using flash grenades and to expect calls reporting shots fired.

The commander introduced himself and explained to us what was going on. As we listened, I noticed he was wearing a wedding ring! As the commander walked away to return to the scene, we thanked him multiple times for what he was doing.

I know this brave officer has a wife at home, and possibly children, praying for his safe return each day. Most likely the majority of our brave Austin Police officers, who put their lives on the line for us each day, have spouses and children. So, on behalf of all concerned citizens, I wish to thank the brave APD officers who help make our streets safer.

Our prayers and appreciation are with you always!

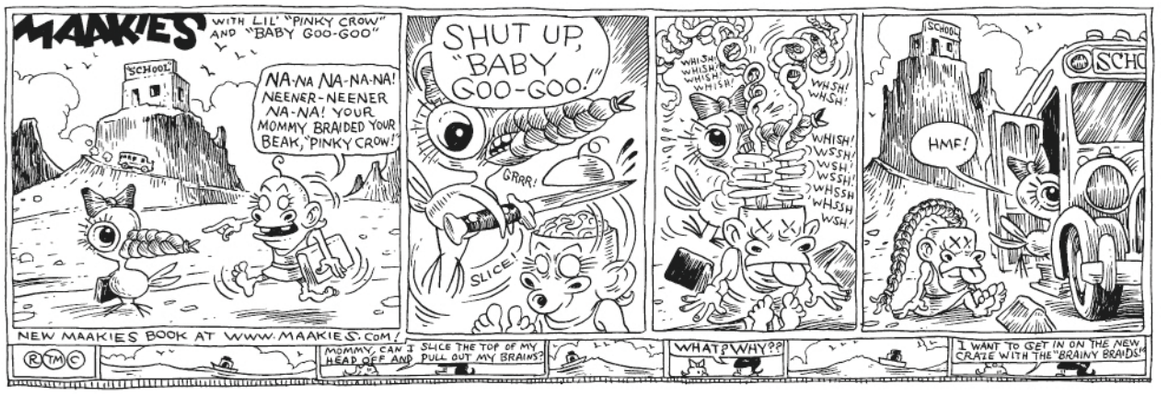
Donna E. Giles

Supports Condominiums

Dear Editor,

I can't help but be a little upset at Toni Price's comments ["Off the Record," Music, Jan. 25] saying the reason she left Austin is because of all the condominiums. I personally live in one of the new condo projects going up around Austin, and I would like to think I'm not part of the problem Austin is facing. I moved to Austin because I wanted to be in the heart of a large, hip, progressive city, and that's what Austin still is, even with all the condominiums. I lived in the outskirts of town for two years when I moved here, because all the condominiums weren't yet available, and I'm glad they are now, because if people like Ms. Price would check, they aren't really that expensive compared to the old, energy-devouring, sometimes decaying houses going for sky-high prices in other parts of town. I now get to live in the heart of our hip city, in a newly built, green (as in ecologically friendly) home, and isn't that what "hippies" like Ms. Price want all of us to do? And, if people like Ms. Price would also check, there are a lot of people in the neighborhood of these condominium projects that are glad they're being built. People here in South Austin at all our quirky shops and restaurants are thrilled when I tell them I live in the neighborhood condo building, because they have new customers moving in and new friends moving in, as well. Imagine the ecological impact of building 200 new homes on Barton Springs (goodbye, Zilker Park!). I certainly hope there was more to Ms. Price's reason for leaving Austin than all the condominiums, because this condo-dweller can't wait to get out and enjoy a city I still think has a lot of local music, theatre, food, and art to enjoy.

Sincerely,
Jesse Ray



Paul Not a Friend of All Civil Liberties

Dear *Chronicle*,

Thanks for your subtle commentary on Ron Paul's hopeful presidential candidacy.

On p.16 in the Jan. 25 issue, your juxtaposition of Nancy Robbins' ad ("Austin Loves Ron Paul") and the ad from the Austin Women's Health Center ("Dedicated Care. Real Choices. Private Abortion Care.") perfectly highlighted the huge reason why Paul's rhetoric about restoring civil liberties and Americans' rights should be ignored – because of his vow to overturn *Roe v. Wade*: "Legislatively, we should focus our efforts on building support to overturn *Roe v. Wade*." (Found on **www.ronpaul2008.com**.)

I can't think of a bigger civil liberty than my right to choose what happens inside my own body, so I'm not sure whose civil liberties Paul wants to restore. Maybe he should re-examine the meaning of this statement, also found on his website: "The biggest threat to your privacy is the government."

Paula Ribeiro

Get a Composting Toilet

Dear Editor,

Good article on composting ["The Dirt on Composting," News, Jan. 18], but you forgot the most important kind. Would everyone just get a composting toilet, and get over it? I have been using an Envirolet brand toilet for the past year or so, and along with getting the free potting soil every three months that smells nothing at all like what goes in the top side, the main advantage that could save our planet is the fact that I have been living on fewer than 30 gallons of water a week. Just doing my part.

Brooks Coleman

Problem Not Generational

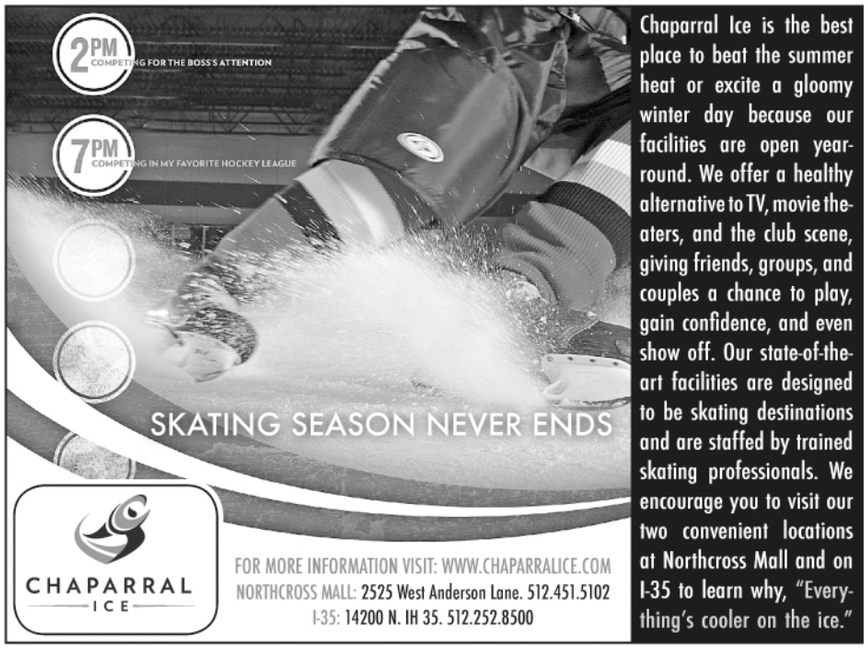
Dear Editor,

I began reading Teighlor Darr's letter ["Postmarks"] in the Jan. 25 edition with interest because it began quite well, accurately describing the situation we currently face in America. While I agree that those who support Dubya's insane policies are destroying our country from within more completely than any enemy could do from the outside, I strongly disagree with Darr's assertion that the problems are caused by generational differences. I have heard a great many young Americans espousing the same ignorant nonsense as Bush. The "old-timers," as Darr calls them, are no more responsible for the neocon idiocy than is Darr, so I strongly suggest that the task of identifying our country's enemies should be given to someone other than Darr. Turning necessary allies into adversaries in a vain attempt to seem intelligent is precisely the same kind of mistake that Bush and the neocon morons have repeatedly made.

Max Minor

continued on p.10





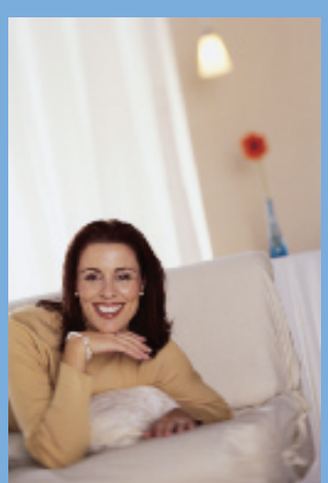
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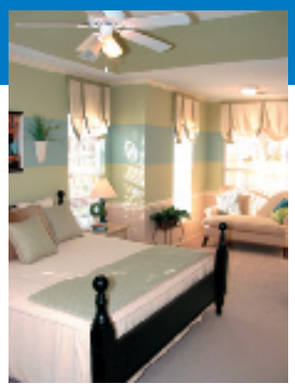
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Get your deposit back, Jack
Give 'em 30 days, Ray
No yard to mow, Joe
No rent to pay, Jay
No need to be sad, Brad
Come take a swim, Kim
Choose from 30 plans, Stan
You won't pay any more, Lenore
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Get a bigger place, Grace



Paint your home your way, Rae
Decorate your new home in style, Lyle
Low-maintenance lifestyle, Kyle
It's really time to go, Flo
Save a few bucks, Chuck
Do not renew, Stew
Don't need to mow the lawn, Shawn
Got the perfect loan, Joan
You'll love the tree lined streets, Pete
There's a cul-de-sac in back, Jack
We got a master down plan, Jan
You'll have a place to park, Mark
Don't wait til after you marry, Larry
Make your home your own, Joan
Time to cancel your lease, Charisse
Get a new key, Lee
Give 'em notice and leave, Steve
Get a sweet deal, Neal
Come on have some nerve, Erv
Move out of the dorm, Norm
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Show some pride, Clyde
Time to get your own place, Grace
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What They Really Mean ...

Dear Editor,

I thought I had clarified the use of doublespeak for Louis awhile ago, but after his last editorial ["Page Two," Jan. 25], I guess I was wrong. Here in the United States of Soviet Republicans, the Reds are well-known for saying one thing and meaning something completely different. For example, when Comrade Cheney says we're fighting for the freedom of Iraq, he means we're fighting so that Halliburton will have a *free* flow of money to its coffers. When Chairman Bush says he wants to help the economy, he means that he wants to make sure that the CEOs of his base constituents are not harmed by a sinking economy. When Information Minister Rove writes a speech stating that the Reds support the little people, he means he wants even the short corporate lobbyists to have a fair shot at the public trough. And of course, when the Reds say they want to protect the United States/environment/people/or (fill in appropriate term), they mean they want to preserve their power to do whatever they want. I hope this clears things up for the editor, but if not, have him refer to J. Edgar Hoover's *Masters of Deceit: The Story of Communism in America and How to Fight It*. Of course, he needs to replace any reference to "communist" with "conservative."

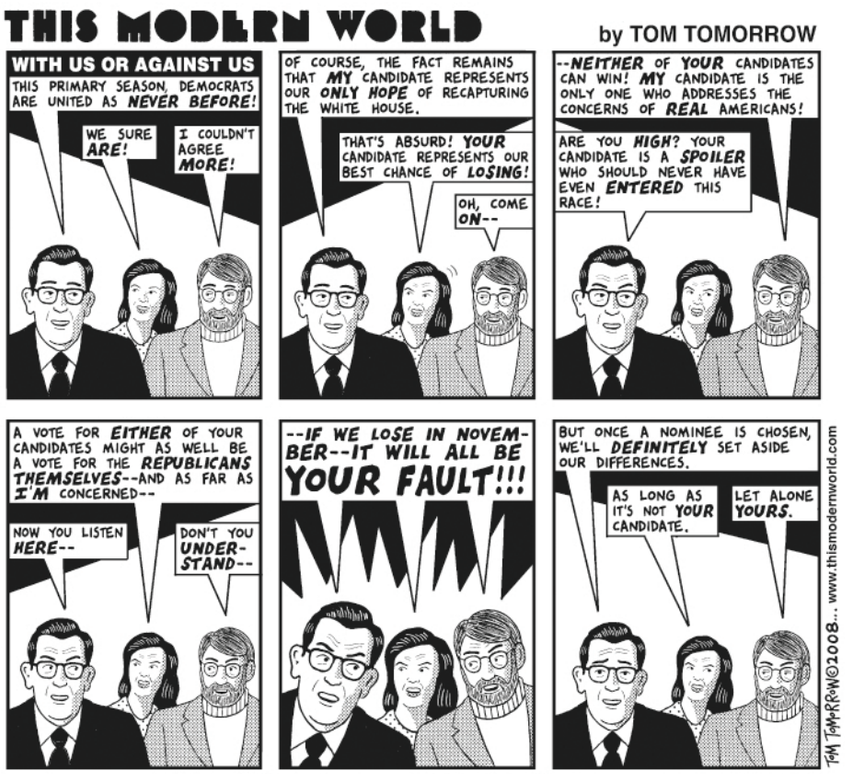
Jay Williams

Don't Confuse 'Pauls'

Dear Editor,

A friend just informed me that an old post to your Sports blog [The Score, July 23, 2007] identified Paul Feinstein, who has just been arrested for the KOOP fire, as a host for the KOOP show *Up on the Download*. Although Mr. Feinstein was at one time an apprentice on the show, he has never been an official host, and considering that I *am* one of the hosts of this show and that my first name is Paul and that I go by the on-air name Pint-Size Pauly, I ask that you publish a correction showing that Mr. Feinstein was at that time (July 2007) host of the show *Jazz a la Bohemia*. I would not like to be confused with the alleged arsonist just because we have the same first name.

Thanks much,
Paul Borelli



POSTMARKS ONLINE
UPDATED DAILY

austinchronicle.com/postmarks

Many of Our Economic Problems Are Wal-Mart's Fault

Dear Editor,

Re: "Postmarks," Jan. 25: Here's what we know:

1) The U.S. trade debt is up to $6 trillion, which means we're buying imports and not enough people are buying our exports. Wal-Mart is a major contributor to this problem. (By the way, we don't have a lot of exports to sell, since corporate America has sent all our manufacturing jobs away.)

2) A big recession or depression is at our doorstep, in part due to the trade deficit. When the recession hits full-force, the poor and middle class will get hurt. The corporate execs will probably get another bonus.

3) Every time you buy foreign goods from Wal-Mart, you support slave labor overseas, low pay in the U.S., export of American jobs, landfill overload, and the enrichment of already obscenely rich corporate execs.

So, Leslie, in the small amount of time we have left before we're standing in bread lines, think about your addiction to cheap foreign crap while you shop at Wal-Mart. Then look at your kids, and tell them you're sorry you fried their future.

Ben Hogue



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Asarco's El Paso smelter has contaminated the air and land for far too long and should not reopen.



comments received by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality during the latest comment period were against Asarco reopening.

Governor Rick Perry appoints individuals to the TCEQ (MC 100, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087, (p) 512-239-5500, (f) 512-239-5533), whose three Commissioners will make the decision on Asarco's permit application #20345.

Please contact Governor Rick Perry (P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711, 1-800-252-9600, (f) 512-463-1849), and ask him to use his influence over his TCEQ appointments to deny Asarco's permit application #20345.

The science is done. Asarco's permit application #20345 if approved by the TCEQ will allow the annual emission of 7,560 tons of pollutants each year in the form of Sulfur Dioxide, Particulates, Lead, and Arsenic.

Administrative Judges from the State Office of Administrative Hearings have already heard the arguments and concluded that Asarco should not be allowed to reopen because of its pollution potential and their dismal environmental compliance record. Their report states, "A staff member experienced heaviness in the chest, periodic increases in heart rate, sulfur odor and tastes, and general feelings of discomfort... consistent with the... respiratory illnesses that sulfur dioxide exposure can produce." (p. 91, http://shapleigh.org/system/reporting_document/file/191/582-05-0593-pfd.pdf or Google Shapleigh Asarco Files).

Asarco was fined $20 million by the EPA for illegally burning hazardous waste from 1992 to 1997 (New York Times, 10/11/06, "Copper Plant Illegally Burned Hazardous Waste, E.P.A. Says." (http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/11/us/11toxic.html?ex=1318219200&en=3ee634faa2197f28&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss or Google New York Times Hazardous Waste).

Asarco only measured contaminants from three of the 103 emission points. Even so, Sulfur Dioxide emissions were double what they had been allowed. Nitrogen Oxide emissions were at 2 1/2 times the allowable levels. The smelter emitted 11 times the authorized levels of Carbon Monoxide and its toxic Arsenic and Lead emissions were exponentially higher than permitted (http://www.ci.el-paso.us/asarco.asp, or http://shapleigh.org/system/reporting_document/file/191/582-05-0593-pfd.pdf or Google El Paso Asarco Video).

If Asarco reopens, "El Paso would potentially have the distinction of being home to the facility with the HIGHEST LEVEL OF LEAD EMISSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES (capitalization added)"…Asarco would emit 12 TIMES the sulfur dioxide and DOUBLE the particulates of the next highest El Paso emitter. http://www.ci.el-paso.tx.us/_documents/article%20-%20Why%20Asarco%20-%20longer%20version%20for%20website.pdf

Other industry in El Paso is relatively clean. Asarco, in a dubious class all by itself, should not reopen.

El Paso is out of compliance with the EPA on particulate emissions. Asarco's contamination of tons of particulates into the air per year will put El Paso even further in violation. Good employers will locate elsewhere rather than subject their employees to all that Asarco air contamination. Significantly more jobs will be lost than the few provided by Asarco.

Many prominent people are against Asarco reopening, including City of El Paso Mayor John Cook and the City Council, the El Paso Independent School District Board of Trustees, builder and former member of the University of Texas System Board of Regents Woody Hunt, CEO of Helen of Troy Gerald Rubin, State Senator Eliot Shapleigh, and US Congressman and Chair of the House Intelligence Committee Sylvestre Reyes ("Reyes: Don't permit Asarco to reopen," July 28, 2007; http://elpasotimes.typepad.com/capitol/2007/06/reyes-to-tceq-t.html or Google Reyes Asarco).

Numerous officials in New Mexico and Mexico have come out against Asarco, to protect the health and economic well being of their residents (http://newspapertree.com/politics/1450-2-countries-3-cities-take-stand-against-asarco-asarco-fights-back or Google 2 Countries 3 Cities Against Asarco). We deserve no less from Governor Perry.

Please contact Governor Rick Perry today at the address and phone/fax numbers above, and ask him to help stop Asarco's permit application #20345. Thank you!

If you can, please also come to the final hearing at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (12100 Park 35 Circle, Building E, Room 201 S, Austin, TX 78753 512-239-1000), on Wednesday, February 13th, 2008 at 1 PM.

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26 MIXED USE, MIXED EMOTIONS

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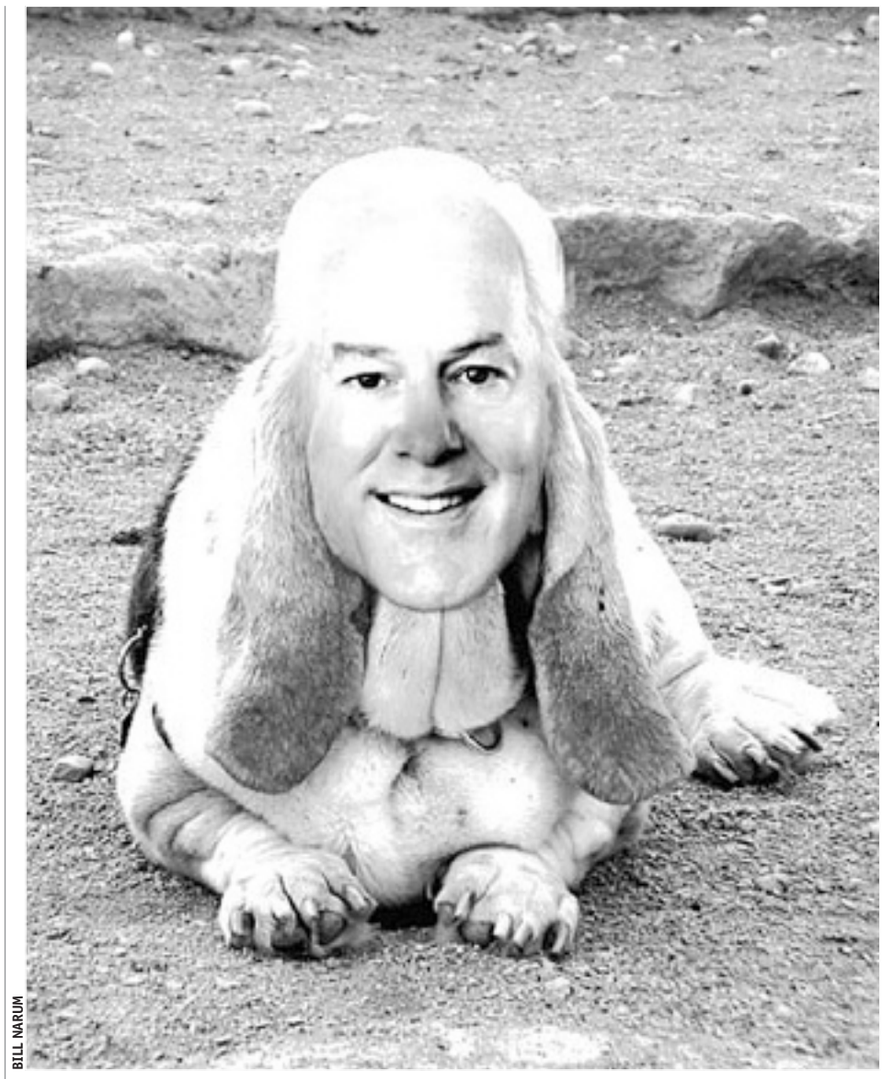
HEADLINES

- What if the president gave a **State of the Union** speech and nobody noticed? On Monday night, Bush cited Osama bin Laden as the foremost authority on the U.S. "surge" in Iraq and griped darkly about Iran. The next day's papers were full of **Florida**. …
- … where on Tuesday, **John McCain** bested Mitt Romney (36%-31%), Rudy Giuliani and sidekick Rick Perry faded into oblivion, and in the unofficial Democratic primary, a huge turnout gave **Hillary Clinton** (50%) a considerable moral victory over Barack Obama (33%) and John Edwards (14%), who ended his campaign Wednesday.
- Much closer to home, **City Council** meets today (Thursday) with a heavy agenda – everything from the ongoing Downtown music/noise arguments to the blue-sky plans for Waller Creek. See "Beside the Point," p.14.

NAKED CITY

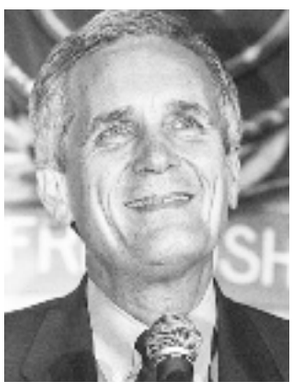
- Austin Fire Department officials revealed that a dispute over music drove former **KOOP** deejay **Paul Feinstein** to set fire to the station headquarters earlier in January. Feinstein, who turned himself in voluntarily on Monday, was interviewed Friday by investigators. In the course of the six-hour interview, he told investigators he was "very unhappy" his playlist for the station's nightly off-air, Internet show had been altered. Feinstein left KOOP in December, shortly before the fire, to do "other things." The news comes as a great shock to station members, who recall Feinstein as sociable and well-liked. "The idea that something as minor as a dispute over what music to put in our digital library could possibly trigger someone to set fire to our radio station is unfathomable," KOOP President Andrew Dickens said.
– Justin Ward
- The **Austin Independent School District** took a step closer to an interim bond issue Monday when the Citizens' 2008 Bond Advisory Committee made its recommendations to the board of trustees. Items with a dollar value attached added up to roughly $233 million, mostly to be spent on technology replacements, new science labs to meet increased high school graduation requirements, and urgent renovations and classroom construction. The committee also suggested the district consider some items it did not have estimates for yet, including an early childhood center to relieve overcrowding at Linder Elementary. However, members of both the committee and board said the speed of the committee process and the decision to prepare only an interim bond has left many critical long-term issues unresolved. The board will now enter a series of work sessions and public hearings before making a final decision by Feb. 25 on placing a bond proposal on the May 10 ballot.
– Richard Whittaker
- A familiar name in Austin politics will be back on May's municipal ballot: Former City Council Member **Raul Alvarez** announced Monday that he's running for Place 5 on the **Austin Community College** board of trustees. Alvarez was on the City Council from 2000 to 2006. Since June 2007, he has been grassroots community coordinator for AISD's Office of Redesign. "Austin Community College is a pivotal part of our educational system, and its importance will only be magnified as the region's economy and the demand for a highly educated workforce continues to grow," Alvarez

continued on p.15



BILL NARUM

Frustrated with U.S. Sen. John Cornyn's record in Congress? You aren't the only one. Fed up with Cornyn's "tail-wagging support for the administration's policies on the war, torture, and civil liberties, and his dogged defense of President Bush's veto of affordable health care to millions of needy children," Austin's Movement for a Democratic Society is hosting a street theatre event Friday, Feb. 15, from 5 to 6:30pm outside Cornyn's office at 221 W. Sixth. The theme is "Curb Corn Dog Cornyn" – "Corn Dog" being President Bush's pet name for the senator. "We are inviting progressive groups to develop – through canine-related costume, music, and street theater – their own distinctive messages about Cornyn's flea-bitten record. We are asking people to bring their dogs and/or to come costumed as dogs," yaps MDS's website. The "production" will correspond with the monthly Iraq Moratorium protest, the third Friday of every month. See more on the "Corn Dog" event at www.movementforademocraticsociety.org; for moratorium-related info, see www.iraqmoratorium.org.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Three hundred fifty-seven days and counting …"

– U.S. Rep. **Lloyd Doggett**, D-Austin, reacting Monday after President Bush's State of the Union

POINT AUSTIN

Union Goons

On unions, the 'Statesman' is bull-goose loony

BY MICHAEL KING

The *Chronicle* editorial board – an informal, movable feast comprising the news staff, editors, and publisher – is currently knee-deep in our endorsement meetings with candidates for the March 4 primary elections (in this county, essentially exclusively Democratic). We're interviewing candidates, reviewing backgrounds, asking questions, and trying to put ourselves in the shoes of voters (like ourselves) walking up to a voting machine and making hard choices. It's an engaging and informative process, time-consuming but instructive, and an opportunity to address at length with both incumbent and would-be public officials a broad range of issues, ranging from children's health care to land use, public schools to capital punishment, mental-health resources to economic development.

What do we look for? I can't speak for everybody, but certainly near the top of our lists are knowledge, competence, and flexible intelligence. These candidates are applying for difficult jobs, for which they'll need to comprehend a wealth of information quickly in order to address – and balance – a multitude of legitimate but often conflicting public interests. It is hardly sufficient to be obsessed with one or two issues filling the recent headlines. And since we're generally considering various shades of Democrat, declaring fealty to one or another progressive agenda is in itself seldom persuasive. Certainly we try to determine whether a candidate is genuinely committed to democratic values, open government, real equity, and honest justice, but beyond those presumptive standards, we also try to weigh fairly whether he or she is best capable of doing the job well.

I'm thinking about these matters not only because we're in the middle of them, but because those good folks at the *Austin American-Statesman* editorial board, in their latest hysterical rant against the all-powerful city public-safety unions, have helpfully suggested a whole new procedure. "The power play by Austin's public safety unions to enrich themselves through city council elections," declared the editors ominously, "is distasteful on several levels" ("Austin Unions Line Up Bargaining Chips," Jan. 23). That latest screed was in response to the recent joint endorsements of City Council candidates issued by the police, firefighter, and EMS union political action committees – which the *Statesman* wants us to believe were directly exchanged for promises of cash. "As a reward for the endorsements," the editors – how can I put this? – lied, "past city councils have made Austin police the highest paid in Texas and among the highest paid in the United States."

Should we surmise that these high-minded geniuses presume that other people exchange endorsements for cash or other favors, because that must be how they handle their own affairs?

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Listen and Decide

At the *Chronicle*, we're still weeks away from municipal election endorsements, so the unions are way ahead of us. Hoping to learn more about this latest trend in fundraising, I spoke to union leaders about their endorsement process. As you might guess, their firsthand version directly contradicts the *Statesman* slanders.

"I've been doing this for 12 years," said Austin Police Association Vice President Wuthipong Tantaksinanukij (known universally as "Tank"), "and that has never come up, ever. I give the same opening speech every year – we're not looking for a yes-person or somebody who votes with us all the time. We're looking for someone who will have an open-door policy on the issues that concern us, someone who is capable of making informed decisions, especially about public safety. And not only public safety – we're interested in parks and streets, in economic development, in everything that makes Austin a great city."

Stephen Truesdell, president of the Austin Firefighters Association, reiterated that pay issues "weren't discussed at all" with the candidates and that most of the discussion (to which general membership was invited) concerned "public safety and working conditions," especially matters like expanding fire protection for Downtown high-rises. "We want someone who's going to listen and who will make informed decisions," Truesdell said. It's certainly no secret that all three organizations are concerned about staffing levels for a growing city – a concern shared by literally everyone at City Hall and all interested observers. But to the *Statesman*, there's inherently something sinister about union members trying to figure out how we're going to protect a fast-expanding city – because it's going to cost real money.

Steve Stewart represents the EMS union, smallest of the three, but also with responsibility for both city and county. He says they talked to candidates about how to improve city-county emergency management, as well as overall emergency response times, and they ended up endorsing those candidates who they believe have the most specific proposals to help do those things. "We're not in the same position as cops and firefighters," said Stewart, a bit wryly. "But we've never really asked for money. We've asked for the tools to do our jobs."

All three men shrugged off the *Statesman*'s cheap shots, but they still stung. "It's just more of the same," said Truesdell. "They seem to believe we shouldn't be able to exercise our rights."

The Gods Must Be Crazy

Alas, the union reps were no help to me in learning how to turn the *Chronicle* endorsement process into ready cash. No doubt, like all of us, they have their own best interests in mind; but in making their endorsements, it sounds like they pretty much proceed like most citizens, trying to determine who are the best candidates for the job at hand. (The three reps were each frankly surprised that they were able to issue a joint endorsement on all candidates; they entered the process presuming they would differ on some.)

It's no news to *Chronicle* readers that governing the city is a complicated, demand-heavy, resource-short, interest-balancing proposition and that we're entering another economically perilous period in a city already stretched for funding – there are going to be hard arguments about every last dime. Public safety needs indeed must be balanced against every other myriad public need. But reflexively blasting the unions as money-grubbing blackmailers is, to put it prissily, "distasteful on several levels."

Of course, unlike the *Statesman* editors, who make their weighty decisions from the objective realms of Mount Cox Olympus, the rest of us just do the best we can. ■

BESIDE THE POINT

If It Walks Like a Duck ...

BY WELLS DUNBAR

On a local political mailing list (which shall remain nameless), there's talk – gloating, really – about **Toby Futrell**'s impending departure. "TOBY FUTRELL HAS BEEN PACKING PERSONAL ITEMS AND HER OFFICE," reads one all-capped dispatch. "I WAS THERE LAST WEEK." Another commenter chimes in, "I can get extra boxes if she needs them."

Helpful bunch.

Even prior to **Marc Ott**'s naming as city manager ("Beside the Point," Jan. 25), Futrell had seemed scarce around City Hall. She wasn't at her usual perch next to the mayor for Ott's ascension; she hasn't been on the dais for several of the last council meetings. Really, the last time you could truly call Futrell active and engaged was during the annual budget adoption at the summer's end. Since then, it's been a parade of assistant city managers occupying her seat.

But while Ott moves to the third floor Feb. 18, Futrell hasn't completely abdicated behind the scenes. About two weeks ago, she issued a memo recounting the plight of a local business. Citing the substantial rains of last summer, Futrell noted that flooding had closed Lake Austin, "hindering many summer recreation activities and other business endeavors, including those of **Austin Duck Adventures**, a locally owned and operated tour guide business" – resulting in "significant losses" for the company.

No doubt you've seen and heard the amphibious Duckmobile quacking across Downtown on its six-wheeled, watertight military chassis (and if you share BTP's sunny disposition, resisted the urge to answer those duck calls by extending a nonwebbed middle finger). Now, says Futrell, the duck's been plucked again, as seasonal lowering of Lake Austin to fight hydrilla and repair docks means the engine can't take to the water. Citing these trying times, Futrell's memo officially allowed the Duckmobile to launch instead into friendly feathered **Lady Bird Lake** waters from a single location, three times a day, for no more than 20 minutes at a time, all dependent on a favorable vehicle inspection.

While Futrell said her edict created "a mutual benefit" to the city and the tourism company alike, her opinion apparently wasn't watertight – as Council Member **Mike Martinez** asked Futrell to rescind her executive decision as effectively violating council prerogatives. "I am not supportive of this shift in agreement (POLICY) with Austin Duck Adventures," Martinez e-mailed Futrell and the council. "I understand the hardship that has occurred over the last year but quite frankly that is the nature of the business they have entered. Any amendment or change in direction with regard to Lady Bird Lake should be set by council policy rather than based in business modeling or economic impact to one single business." While Martinez says he was specifically concerned to prevent "further commercialization" of Lady Bird Lake, he was also annoyed at Futrell's de facto policy-making flourish. "It's a policy-level decision when you're talking about something like Lady Bird Lake," he told BTP.

"I'm just waiting for a response to the e-mail," Martinez answered when asked what's next. Apparently he got tired of waiting, reiterating his question again this week, this time with Lee Leffingwell noting he also has concerns about motorized vehicles on Downtown waters. Parks and Recreation Department acting Director Stuart Strong replied that Austin Duck Adventures had agreed not to operate while Lady Bird Lake is lowered for a repair project. "So are you saying that Austin Duck Adventures has been given permission to operate on Lady Bird Lake?" Martinez asked. "Who is offering these agreements and why? ... Council never agreed or authorized another motorized use on LBL, and I believe this to be a policy shift that requires a process and council action."

Futrell eventually responded, saying the permit request had been withdrawn (in contrast to Stuart's intimation that Austin Duck Adventures had simply given up on touring while the lake was lowered). But she also cited city code provisions giving her authority to allow vehicles on Lady Bird Lake as long as they don't "adversely affect the public safety or welfare," among other concerns. "Moving forward," Futrell concludes, "if the Council wants to preserve this decision as a policy decision and does not want or intend for the City Manager to have this authority, several sections of the City Code will need to be amended."

It looks like this policy-setting skirmish writ small has ended less like water off a duck's back – and more like an exploding box of quackers.

□

With an enormous 138-item agenda for this week's meeting (today, Jan. 31), council can't sweat the small stuff. Items include initiating the **Eastside Homestead Preservation District**; creating a **Live Music Task Force** to examine noise issues, assist music venues, and, oh yeah, consider programs for the actual musicians; a pilot program to leg-up local businesses hoping to open a second location; and the consideration of releasing proposed mega-entertainment studio **Villa Muse** from Austin zoning regs. Presentations at 10:30am (on the **51st Street Water Tower**) and 2pm (on everything **Waller Creek**) fill in the front half; a bloc of neighborhood **vertical mixed-use zonings** and 6pm public hearings on **affordable-housing** incentives, residential uses in mixed use, and **taco carts** make up the back end. Anyone fancy living affordably above a Torchy's Tacos?

E-mail BTP at **wdunbar@austinchronicle.com**.





said in a statement. "My work with AISD has heightened my understanding of the broad range of educational needs in our community, and I believe that by serving on the ACC board I can use my knowledge of our community's diverse needs and my experience in public service to help make the community college branch of our educational system even stronger!" Place 5 was vacated last year by trustee Rafael Quintanilla, who moved from Austin. Whoever wins the May race will only serve the remainder of Quintanilla's term, which expires in 2010. – *Lee Nichols*

During oral arguments before a three-judge panel of Texas' 3rd Court of Appeals last week, attorney Terrence Kirk argued that **Colton Pitonyak**'s murder conviction should be overturned because evidence of his crime was illegally obtained by the family of his victim. Pitonyak was convicted last year and sentenced to 55 years in prison for the 2005 murder and mutilation of 21-year-old Jennifer Cave, who was found partially dismembered in the bathtub inside Pitonyak's West Campus apartment. Jennifer had failed to show up to work for her new job – about which she had been excited – which, in part, prompted Cave's mother, Sharon, and Sharon's fiancé, Jim Sedwick, to drive up to Austin from Corpus Christi to look for her. After learning Jennifer had last been seen on Sixth Street with Pitonyak (which Pitonyak had lied about to Sharon) and finding Jennifer's car parked near Pitonyak's apartment, Cave and Sedwick broke into Pitonyak's residence – though police had advised them there was not probable cause to enter the residence. In a pretrial hearing, District Judge Wilford Flowers ruled the family's concern about Jennifer's welfare was enough to justify their search – which, in turn, allowed prosecutors to submit evidence found inside the apartment, including photographs of Jennifer's mutilated corpse. However, Kirk argued that Flowers' was wrong; the family's actions constituted an illegal, warrantless search, he said. The state has said the family's actions were covered by the so-called "emergency doctrine," which excuses otherwise illegal behavior in the face of exigent circumstances – as when someone is threatened by imminent danger. In this case, Kirk says, there was no "objectively reasonable" evidence Jennifer was the victim of violence or was in imminent danger at the time Sedwick and Sharon Cave entered Pitonyak's apartment. – *Jordan Smith*

Everybody knows Texas is football country; Phil Rawlins is hoping to turn Austin into fútbol country. The British-born businessman and current Austinite announced last week that he is the proud owner of Austin's newest professional sports franchise, the **Austin Aztex**. England's Stoke City Potters will serve as a parent club for the Aztex, sharing training schemes and organizational experience, as well as mining the U.S. squad for talent and holding a summer training camp in Austin. The Aztex proper will begin play in 2009 as part of the **United Soccer Leagues First Division**. Rawlins has also acquired the Austin Aztex U23 (formerly the Austin Stampede), who are set to kick things off in the USL Premier Development League on May 3 in El Paso. The team's first home game will be against the Houston Leones on May 10 at a pitch yet to be determined. For more on the Aztex, see "Playing Through," p.70, **austinchronicle.com/sports**, and **www.austinaztex.com**. – *Mark Fagan*

BEYOND CITY LIMITS

The sprawl-laden cities of Leander, Cedar Park, and Round Rock got initial approval for a controversial plan Monday to syphon up to 141 million gallons of water a day from Lake Travis, getting the go-ahead to borrow more than $309 million in state dough from the Texas Water Development Board to fund the project. Opponents include North Lake Travis residents, organized into the **Don't Empty Lake Travis Association**, who say they were shut out of planning and that the project's construction will scourge neighborhood parkland, place industrial equipment too close to residences, and unjustly condemn private property along a proposed pipeline. The Save Our Springs Alliance, in a letter to the TWDB, attacked the practically nonexistent water-conservation efforts in the three cities. DELTA questioned the logic of transferring water from Travis County's Colorado River Watershed into Williamson County's Brazos River Watershed without replacing it. They also pointed to Williamson's nonutilized ground-water alternatives, the project's potential to alter lake levels drastically, and a planned Leander-area real estate development deal by Leander Mayor John Cowman. All three cities will raise water rates to fund the project, 47% of which will be bankrolled by Leander. For more info, see **www.twdb.state.tx.us** and **www.draininglaketravis.org**. – *Daniel Mottola*

In what can be seen as a reminder to the White House incumbent of the state he governed, the Democrats' Spanish-language response to President George W. Bush's final **State of the Union** address was delivered by another Texan: State Sen. **Leticia Van de Putte**, D-San Antonio. She was invited by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to deliver the response, which was broadcast on Telemundo and other Spanish-language networks. She recorded it the afternoon before the address in the speaker's office and got to watch Bush deliver the address from Pelosi's box in the chamber. Her text was not a translation of the English-language response delivered by Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, but a new text worked on by Van de Putte and the national leadership, emphasizing issues important to the Latino community. Van de Putte said, "The point I was toughest on the administration on was health care, especially health care for children, knowing that Congress has passed bipartisan funding for CHIP and the president vetoed it twice." – *R.W.*

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board unanimously agreed to **college-readiness standards** that will be forwarded to Education Commissioner Robert Scott. The standards are intended to outline what a high school graduate should know by the time he or she enters postsecondary education. At a gathering last week, Commissioner Raymund Paredes said his greatest fear is that these standards – which he said are on par with some of the highest standards in the nation – will be watered down as the document goes to the commissioner, then on to the State Board of Education. – *Kimberly Reeves*

On the regional front, the nonprofit **E3 Alliance** hosted a leaders summit last week to outline strategies to address some of the pressing Central Texas education statistics. The Alliance emphasizes the economic consequences of educational issues, saying **dropouts** in each class cost the region $425 million in unrealized income and increased social services and the possible loss of 85,000 jobs. Gene Austin of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce said the chamber is shifting its own goal from graduation to matriculation through college, which is necessary for most jobs of the future. – *K.R.*

It's hard to say when green became the new black or how extensively the eco-chic movement of late has permeated mainstream culture, but one thing is certain: Advertisers are slathering green all over ads for everything from cars to coal power. Enter local marketing firm **EnviroMedia**, which last week launched **GreenwashingIndex.com**, in partnership with the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication, as an online forum for consumers to judge for themselves whether a company's ad represents "greenwashing" – defined as spending more time and money claiming to be green through advertising and marketing than actually implementing business practices that minimize environmental impacts. As of Jan. 22, 8,700 people had visited the site, where users are invited to post questionably green ads or view and rate previously posted ads. Topping the worst greenwashing ads was a Chevrolet billboard describing the company as "gas-friendly to gas-free," even though Chevy hasn't sold a gas-free vehicle since the infamous EV1. Among best-rated ads is one for **EarthFriendlyMoving.com**, a Southern California-based start-up that employs loads of green tactics, including renting plastic boxes made from recycled content (aka the RecoPack) to eliminate cardboard-box paper use and waste. – *D.M.*

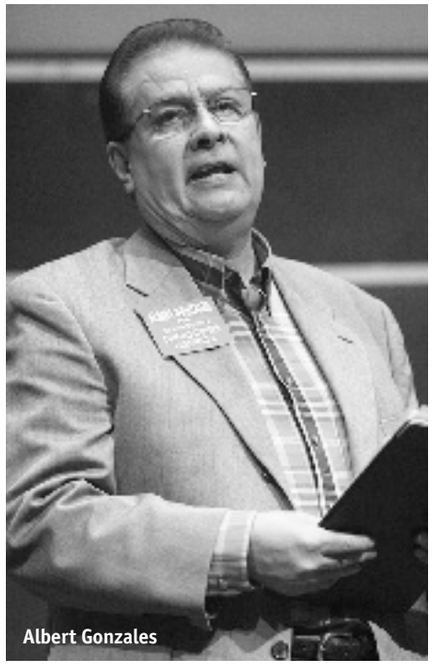
Investigators from the Mutual UFO Network, known as MUFON, descended upon the sleepy farming community of **Stephenville** on Saturday, Jan. 19, to look into a rash of recent **UFO sightings** that have captured national attention in the past few weeks. Eight MUFON investigators, who are certified upon completion of a MUFON-mandated course of study and apprenticeship, spent four hours taking accounts from locals, compiling at least 50 reports, said Texas MUFON Director Ken Cherry, who is leading the investigation. Cherry said there's significant consistency to the accounts so far. He added that Erath County has a history of sightings dating back to the Seventies. Cherry also claimed MUFON has already disproved the explanation offered by the Air Force that the strange lights seen were an illusion created by light reflected off two passenger jets – this is easily falsifiable with airline records, he said. "We use the scientific method, until we've exhausted that approach and determine that it's an unknown," he said. – *J.W.*

The National Border Patrol Council of the American Federation of Government Employees AFL-CIO has sounded another alarm about U.S. enforcement policy – this time sharply criticizing **U.S. Customs and Border Protection**'s new strategy to increase the force pronto, in part by truncating background checks. On Jan. 18, CBP issued a notice on **www.fedagent.com**, which rolled out the expedited hiring program. Applicants may "jump-start the process" of becoming border patrol agents, taking just 30 days to complete certification and training, according to the notice. It breathlessly entices applicants: "Test results are available the same day the exam is taken. Applicants who pass the test go to Dallas for an accelerated, 2-day hiring process, which includes a background check, polygraph exam, medical and fitness testing, and oral interview." However, the agents union issued an immediate rejoinder via its website, **www.nbpc.net**, which predicts that incomplete background checks "will cause the agency more grief than it's worth. The hiring of criminals, illegal aliens, and unqualified applicants will go through the roof." Apparently, the union's detailed testimony on the subject, delivered to the U.S. Senate last June by NBPC President T.J. Bonner, had little effect. Bonner had cautioned: "Every sizeable law enforcement agency that has ever engaged in an overambitious recruitment program has suffered the inevitable consequences of increased corruption and attrition … with a resultant loss of public confidence." A clearinghouse for articles on border corruption may be found at **www.checkpointusa.org/DHS/articles/articles.htm**. – *Patricia J. Ruland*





Dems Hunting Daugherty in Precinct 3


Albert Gonzales

PHOTOS BY JANA BIRCHUM


Karen Huber

Nov. 5, 2002, was a heady day for Travis County Republicans. Statewide, the "GOP tidal wave" had seized control of Texas, and Travis had been a part of it: **Redistricting** had accomplished its goal, with half of the county's six-member House delegation going to the Republicans. Included in this toll was **Travis Co. Commissioners Court Precinct 3** – on election night, mass-transit opponent and road-building proponent **Gerald Daugherty** triumphantly entered the county's vote-counting headquarters leading a parade of Republican supporters chanting, "No more traffic!" after he had unseated Democrat **Margaret Moore**.

Certainly, the western and northern sectors of the county have always countered the notion of Travis Co. as a Democratic fortress – Moore's incumbency had only been through appointment, replacing Republican commissioner turned state Rep. **Todd Baxter**, and in 2004, no Dem even challenged Daugherty's re-election to a full term. But consider the scene six years later: The Travis House delegation is once again all blue, and the Precinct 3 constabulary is under Dem **Richard McCain**. There are now only three GOP officials in office: Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace **Barbara Bembry**, Precinct 2 Constable **Bob Vann**, and Daugherty.

Republicans are now the hunted, and two Democrats view Daugherty as their prey. **Albert Gonzales** and **Karen Huber** are ready to make road warrior Daugherty hit the road. But first, they must battle each other in the March 4 primary. It should be an interesting race, because the two have taken strikingly different routes to candidacy.

Huber is not only a newbie to politics; she's also a latecomer to her own party. Until just a couple of years ago, she considered herself a Republican. Now she's on the other side of the ticket, billing herself as an environmentalist. "My family thought they were Republican," Huber says. More accurately, she says, they weren't really involved in party politics and tended to vote independently. "That's kind of the way I was raised, and in my adult life, when I wasn't active in anything, I thought I was [Republican]." However, "I've always had a problem with the Republican Party's position on the environment." A native Texan and University of Texas grad, she held a series of jobs around the nation in the real estate industry (including, notably, **ClubCorp** – but not, she says, with the arm of the company that manages the infamous Barton Creek Country Club), then moved back to Austin in 1995, getting a job with the **Nature Conservancy** and getting involved in water issues, including the Lower Colorado River Authority pipeline planned for Hamilton Pool Road. After a "slow conversion" and even giving campaign money to Daugherty, a friend of her husband's, "I'm going, 'Wait a minute – I think I know what my core values are.'" Now, she describes herself as a "zealot convert."

That isn't good enough for Gonzales, a retired human-resources worker with Progressive insurance and the founder of the Southwest Austin Democrats. "I've been a Democrat for 46 years," he says, and that's a major part of his pitch to the party faithful. "I've been a loyal, dedicated Democrat, and I understand the party's mission to serve the working class. … She says she was raised Republican and started getting involved in issues 12 years ago; then why did she vote Republican for the past 12 years? She can't blame that on her parents. She's 61 years old. She needs to take responsibility for the last 12."

The two candidates equally recognize the major issue facing Precinct 3: growth. That's an issue for the entire region, but nowhere are its effects more critical than in the western half of the county. And both are acutely aware that state law severely hamstrings the ability of county governments to regulate growth. "I know we can't just literally go in there and say, 'Hey, stop all this development,'" Gonzales says. "We have to respect the rights of the property owners. But I believe the property owners and the developers, if we deliver the message right to them, they'll sit down with us. But we have to sit down with them and tell them, 'Hey, look what we're doing to the environment.' … What is Austin and the surrounding area going to look like 20 years from now? Do we want it to look that way? Most of those developers and landowners live here, and I don't think they want to destroy that beautiful Hill Country." Gonzales said possibly arranging for clusters of "enterprise zones" could allow profit while protecting the environment.

Huber sounds similar themes of collaborating on issues while trying to manage growth. "All the stakeholders who have a vested interest in the outcome should be at the table and looking toward the solutions, along with all the experts that bring the technical information. Quite often the residents have a better feel for how to solve a problem than the experts."

When Huber was with the consulting firm **Resource Management International**, "[The Texas Department of Transportation] in the early 1980s was having so much litigation on construction projects that it was driving costs off the charts, so they implemented what was called a partnering program. Any TxDOT contract for over $250,000 was required to have a collaborative planning process with all the major stakeholders – the subcontractors, the landowners, everybody." Huber says the experience in that process will serve her well on the Commissioners Court. One legal possibility she suggests to manage growth is to explore using more stringently those provisions of state law that empower county governments to protect the public's health and safety, by applying that principle to the traffic and environmental impacts caused by developments.

Both candidates charge that incumbent Daugherty is failing to put citizens on the same footing as developers and road builders – an argument to be revisited by the primary winner in the fall campaign. "He has no respect for the taxpayers," Gonzales says. "YouTube a CAMPO meeting. [The **Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**, on which Daugherty sits, is the major transportation-planning body for the region.] He chews out his constituents. He's forgotten that he is the employee."

Huber has firsthand experience with Daugherty. While working on behalf of **Scenic Texas** to try to get counties greater controls over billboards last session, she says the commissioner interfered with those efforts. "When an urbanizing county like Travis County has a commissioner that either testifies or either sends his person to testify and who quotes his name and says, 'We don't need this,' or 'We don't want this,' it makes a difference. … It really hurts the process." – *Lee Nichols*



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Voting Rolls Mystery Part 2 The county's side

As we reported last week, Travis County election worker **Mike Conwell** says that while working the November 2007 election, he encountered a large number of voters whom he believes were improperly removed from **county voting rolls** shortly after voting in local elections. While doing a personal audit of the rolls, he says, he found hundreds of cases of voters who were placed on the "suspense" list, a classification including citizens whom the county believes may have moved from their registered addresses. Last week, we contacted Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar **Nelda Wells Spears** about Conwell's claim, and she said his conclusions aren't quite right.

Spears said that voting alone does not remove the suspense flag from a voter's record. The voter must actually contact her office to confirm that his or her name doesn't belong on the list. Spears explained that, after voter registration cards are mailed out, some get returned for various reasons, and the cards are not forwardable. When that happens, her office then mails out a letter of confirmation (which is forwardable), and the letter requires a response within 30 days. If that doesn't happen, the voter's registration goes into suspense. The voter may still vote but must fill out a statement of residence (essentially, another voter registration application). If the county does not receive updated information after two federal election cycles, the voter is then purged from the rolls.

This follows another controversy in which some voters got improperly dumped from rolls by the **Texas Election Administration Management system**, a centralized voter registration roll maintained by the **Texas secretary of state**. The state and the county have been pointing fingers of blame at each other. Spears wrote to us: "The TEAM system was programmed to read only one data field to determine a voter's county of residence. This was not a good idea, which Voter Registrars across the state told the SOS staff before their system even went live. Now that the predicted fallout has occurred and resulted in many voters statewide being canceled, we are trying to get the program changed to examine more than one data field before canceling a voter."

Former state Rep. **Glen Maxey**, who is challenging Spears in the March 4 primary, cited both of these cases as reasons why voters should elect him and his activist vision for the office: "Why isn't this office … proactively going to those who cast the ballot?" Maxey asked the *Chronicle*. "She has a responsibility to try to track these people down."

Bottom line, no matter who is right: Voters are advised to check their voter registration status at **www.traviscountytax.org** or by calling 854-9473. If you're not registered and you wish to vote in the primaries, you must be signed up no later than 12mid on Monday, Feb. 4, at that same Web address or phone number. – *L.N.*

VOTER ID BILL REDUX

You can lead Republicans to your argument but can't make them acknowledge it. That's the lesson to be gleaned from last Friday's **House Elections Committee** hearing. It was ostensibly a hearing on the broader topic of **election fraud** in Texas, but Democrats suspect a not very hidden agenda: to dig up ammo for a renewed push for a **voter ID bill** in next year's legislative session. Dems on the committee, especially **Rafael Anchía** of Dallas and **Lon Burnam** of Fort Worth, worked hard to distinguish between **voter impersonation** – which would be the target of voter ID requirements – and the other types of election fraud brought up at the hearing.

"Voter ID" is shorthand for laws that would require voters to present photo identification when they show up to vote; voter ID bills have been shot down in the past two legislative sessions. Republicans strongly favor such laws, saying they are necessary to prevent voting by ineligible people, such as immigrants or felons, and to confirm that the person listed on the registration card is indeed the person presenting it. Democrats charge the voter ID campaign is really an attempt to suppress **Democratic turnout**: The poor, elderly, women, and racial minorities are less likely to have a photo ID, Dems say, and it's no coincidence that those are groups that predominantly vote Democratic. Plus, obtaining an ID requires spending money, which means the law would, in theory, become a de facto (and unconstitutional) **poll tax**. Finally, Dems say, voter ID is a solution looking for a problem: Confirmed cases of voter impersonation at the polls are virtually nonexistent.

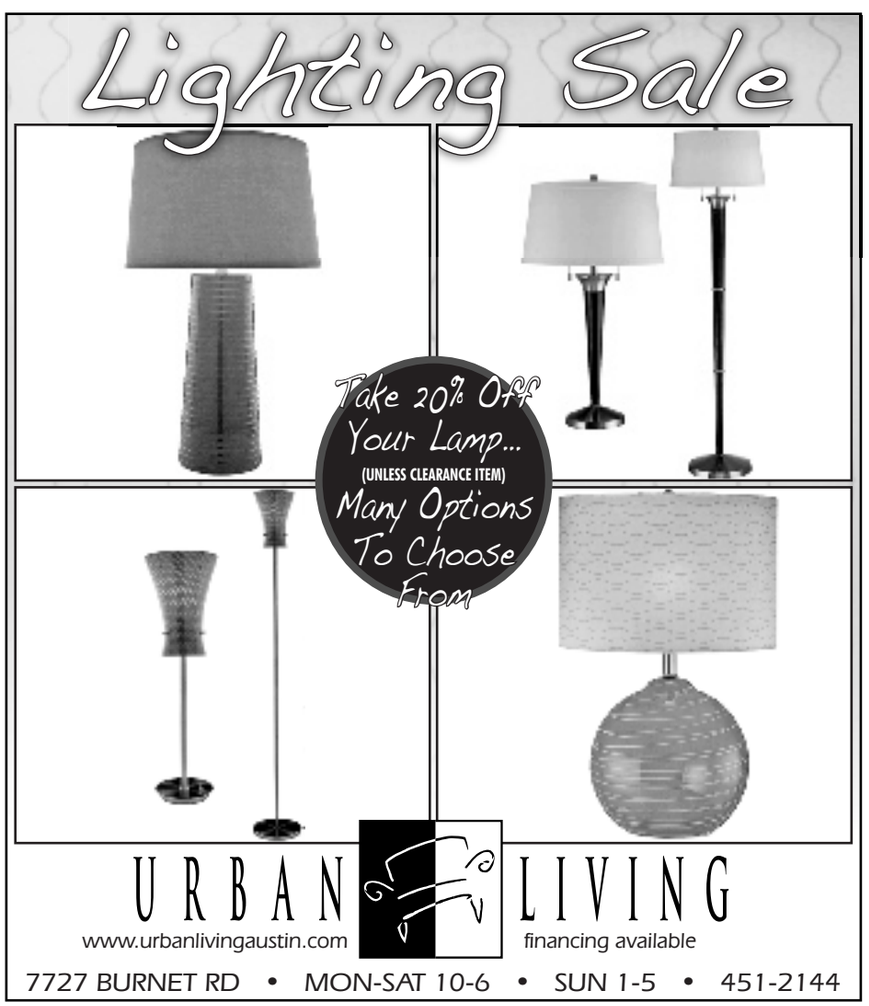
The star GOP witness was Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector **Paul Bettencourt**, who brought several boxes of files he said documented 381 "iron-clad" cases of voter fraud. "Fraud cases exist, period," he said. "It shouldn't be a debate for this body."

"There are many types of fraud, aren't there?" countered Anchía. "When you make the statement that there's definitely voter fraud, it includes a pretty broad definition, right?" That was a theme that ran throughout the hearing – over and over, when examples of fraud were raised, Anchía pointed out that most involved **mail-in ballots** – a situation that a photo ID requirement would not ameliorate.

But Bettencourt did say he had found 24 examples of **deceased voters** who had a voting history after their deaths, covering a period from 1994 to 2000, and pointed to a *Houston Chronicle* story documenting 35 **non-citizens** who voted in the 2004 presidential elections. Anchía specifically challenged the latter number, saying his staff checked the names and found 23 were actually citizens.

Committee Chair **Leo Berman**, R-Tyler, waved a **Mexican ID card**, saying Texas should adopt a similar system, and wondered: If a poor nation like Mexico can adopt such a card, why can't a wealthy country like America? Witnesses from NYU School of Law's **Brennan Center for Justice** countered that perhaps Mexico isn't the best model for a democratic government to follow and claimed Mexico doesn't do the expensive work required to make sure every citizen gets a card. Those same witnesses also noted there are more reports of UFO sightings every year than allegations of voter fraud, and Rep. **Marc Veasey**, D-Fort Worth (not a committee member but who sat in on the hearing), questioned why conservatives would want to spend that kind of money on a problem that, practically speaking, doesn't exist. – *L.N.*





AISD's Fingerprints

Guilty until proven innocent



Two weeks ago, in a highly publicized show of good faith, Austin Independent School District Superintendent **Pat Forgione** smiled wide for the cameras as he put his fingers to ink and pressed them down on paper. With that motion, he became the first person in the state to submit to a new, state-mandated regime of fingerprinting and **background checks for school employees**. But not everyone in the district shares Forgione's enthusiasm.

Last week, nine teachers from **Pillow Elementary** spoke out against fingerprinting, calling the background checks an unnecessary invasion of privacy and raising doubts about the security of their personal information. One teacher, **Candy Ellard**, said she is considering resigning, and at least six others at the school are also contemplating refusing to submit.

"While I must say this is a law where I totally agree with its intent – to protect children," Ellard said in an e-mail, "I strongly object to its method for obtaining this goal. We must ask ourselves how we can protect every individual in our state without sacrificing our fundamental civil liberties."

AISD is the pilot school district for the program, which will require schools to systematically fingerprint and check about 1 million public-school employees over the next four years. District employees were informed of the program only a month before it began, and there is still much confusion and fear over exactly what the law will mean in practice.

And it's not just the Orwellian flavor of the program that's causing teachers to fret. **Nicholas Martin**, who teaches Latin at McCallum High, said he's uneasy about what happens to information on a teacher once it's been collected. "Why is it that the state holds onto the [fingerprints]? Once that background has been checked, [the information] should be destroyed," Martin said. "It's hard to say something like this without sounding reactionary … but our fear is that it's starting this big national database."

Ellard also said she and others are afraid the setup of the program exposes teachers to a risk of **identity theft**. Teachers must supply their names and Social Security numbers, along with 13 pieces of unique data online, in order to get what's called a Fingerprint Applicant Services of Texas Pass, or FAST Pass, which they need to be fingerprinted. "This divulgence of so much critical personal-identity information at one time, on one website, was a concern for many," she said.

Pam Hall, a spokesperson for AISD Human Resources, says teachers have nothing to worry about. "It's just like if you go to the bank to apply for a loan. You have to trust that the institution will protect your information."

Martin added he is concerned about whether information will be shared with agencies other than the **Texas Education Agency** and the **Department of Public Safety**. So far he hasn't gotten a definite answer. "When applying for a bank loan, you know the purpose for releasing that information, and banks have solid, openly stated privacy policies," he said. "This law, on the other hand, is the opposite. There is no policy, or one that has been conveyed to those who ask, that states who or what agencies do and do not have access to your file now and in the future."

Hall said it's natural that teachers have questions but insisted, "They'll come around." The law doesn't really leave them any option. A teacher has 80 days to submit to fingerprinting before the **State Board for Educator Certification** revokes his or her certification. "Some of us would like to protest it," Martin said. "I have a 2-year-old daughter. Do you just surrender your rights or feed your family?"

So far, only one employee has flat-out refused to comply, said Hall, though she wouldn't name the teacher. **Bruce Banner**, a union representative for **Education Austin**, said the union will stand behind any teacher who refuses. The union's stance is one of grudging compliance. Banner said the law is a politically motivated, unnecessary, and costly measure, which will draw an estimated $20 million away from already underfunded public schools.

Education Austin President **Louis Malfaro** wrote in the union's monthly newsletter, "Education Austin certainly doesn't object to schools making sure that the adults who work daily with children do not pose a threat. … Our concern and disappointment with the Legislature is the shortsightedness of its efforts to address the full range of student needs, beyond a redundant gesture which seems aimed at distracting the public's attention away from the real threats to public schools and kids and simultaneously besmirching the most powerful lobby for public education in Texas: our state's teachers and school employees."

Another concern teachers have noted is that the law makes exceptions for many nonteachers who have the most exposure to children on a one-on-one basis, such as speech therapists and school psychologists. But Hall said the district plans to go one step further than the law and implement fingerprinting for all district employees.

Martin urged more teachers to speak out. "If we just sit there and smile like Forgione did, without recognizing or understanding what the law is for, it is just ignorant and foolish."

– Justin Ward

REEFER MADNESS

The Latest Scare

BY JORDAN SMITH

It may be a new year, but that hasn't stopped U.S. drug czar **John Walters** from pulling out his bag of old tricks in order to stir up a frenzy over the alleged emergence of a new and deadly drug. According to crazy old coot Walters, the efforts of national narcos to abate the illicit market for the drug Ecstasy are being hampered by the spread of a new and supposedly deadly form of the drug that is laced with **methamphetamine** – a drug that Walters' camp at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy has dubbed "**Extreme Ecstasy**."

Walters claims organized crime groups in Canada are now lacing Ecstasy with "less expensive methamphetamine" in order to "boost profits for Canadian Ecstasy producers." This new development, he said, "likely increases the addictive potential of their product and effectively gives a dangerous 'face lift' to a designer drug that had fallen out of fashion with young American drug users." The laced drug has been pouring across the border from Canada through border communities like Windsor, Ontario, Walter said – and more than 55% of the Ecstasy seized by U.S. narcos last year contained meth, he said.

While that may sound scary (even when you learn that Ecstasy is often cut with some sort of speed), it isn't clear that it's at all true – at least not according to Canadian law enforcers, who said it appears Walters and his gang wove the story out of whole cloth. "I shook my head when I read the release that [the ONDCP] put out," Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superintendent **Paul Nadeau** told the Canadian Press. "That term is unknown to us, certainly in Canada, and I can tell you that I've spoken to law enforcement people in the U.S. and they've never heard of it either, so it would appear it's a term that somebody came up with in a boardroom in Washington, D.C." Moreover, Nadeau said that according to stats kept by Canadian narcos, the practice of lacing Ecstasy with amphetamine is on the wane – tests by the RCMP indicate about 35% of all Ecstasy is laced with speed, down from 75% just a few years ago.

Reefer Madness isn't sure what Walters has been ingesting, but it certainly isn't the first time he's gotten some bad shit. In 2002, he embarked on a newly reinvigorated **anti-pot campaign** by claiming today's marijuana is nearly 30 times more potent than it was in the Sixties and Seventies. Unfortunately, there was no clear evidence that was the case, and in April, the ONDCP as much as conceded the point, announcing that according to the **University of Mississippi**'s pot **Potency Monitoring Project**, the average amount of tetrahydrocannabinol (or **THC**, marijuana's main psychoactive ingredient) found in samples of seized marijuana has now reached a whopping 8.5% – at least half the amount Walters claimed some five years ago.

– Jordan Smith

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Thursday, January 31 **8:00pm**
University Presbyterian Church
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Friday, February 1 **8:00pm**
St. Martin's Lutheran Church
606 W. 15th Street, Austin
Tickets: $30 General Admission /$15 Youth

Sunday, February 3 **2:30pm**
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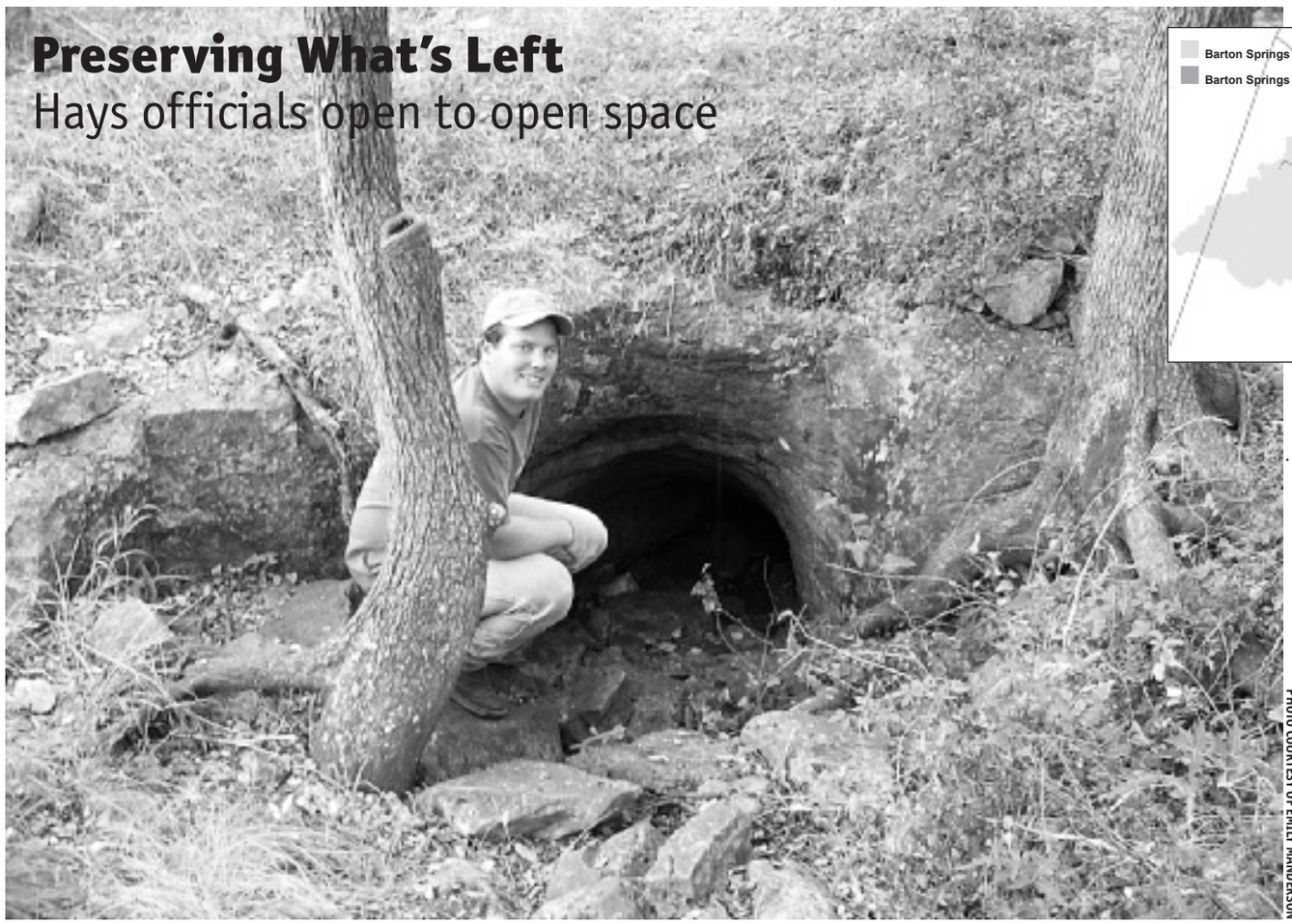
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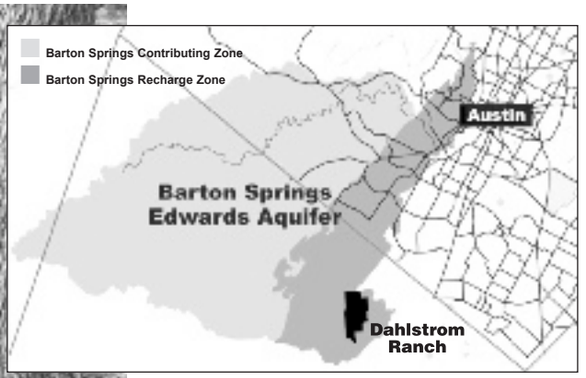


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Preserving What's Left

Hays officials open to open space





The Dahlstrom land reflects many aquifer recharge features, including this cave pointed out by hunting guide Clint Freeman.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY MANDERSON

After years of rapid growth that brought dozens of new subdivisions to the Hill Country, Hays County officials are looking for ways to preserve the few large tracts of land that remain for open space. The **Dahlstrom Ranch**, a 2,400-acre spot south of Buda, could be the latest conservation easement purchased to maintain the health of the **Barton Springs Zone** of the **Edwards Aquifer**. The proposition was first introduced Dec. 4 in **Hays County Commissioners Court**, with Commissioner **Jeff Barton** laying out the Dahlstrom family proposal that would have the county paying $9.9 million for permanent development rights to the ranch. Due to the bargain-basement price – the development rights are said to be worth between $20 million and $40 million – and the unique recharge features on the property, speculation abounds over which potential partners may team up with Hays County to acquire and manage the land.

The county's **Citizens Parks Advisory Team** reviewed the plan in December, but the proposal came up short of the 105 minimum "passing" score (on a 155-point scale) required under the county's criteria for dipping into $30 million in voter-approved bond money to purchase parks and open space. However, the citizens' group was unanimous in expressing continued support for the project, saying the low score was a result of having insufficient information on the property. Barton promised to continue pursuing a feasibility plan and is discussing possible partnerships with officials from the nearby cities of **Dripping Springs**, **Kyle**, and **Buda**. In addition, he said he has been in talks "at the staff level" with the city of **Austin**. The Dahlstroms' attorney, **David Braun**, an expert on land-conservation issues, added that some commissioners have pitched the idea to some Austin City Council members. The **Hill Country Conservancy** is also "firmly involved" in the project, Braun said. The executive director of the conservancy, **George Cofer**, said the ranch's size and the enthusiasm of the family to sell only add to what "is absolutely one of the most important tracts as far as recharge to the aquifer."

In early January, Braun invited **Joseph Beery**, a hydrologist with the **Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District**, to the property to gather data on the site's recharge potential. Beery, for his part, said the conservation district was "refining our geological map and assessing … caves and sinkholes and those types of recharge features." The property, he said, is the "last really large ranch at the end of the aquifer," and a 400-acre catchment in the recharge area is "the largest I'm aware of in the district." Barton was less technical, characterizing the report from Beery and geologists as "universally enthusiastic." Beery tempers that enthusiasm, noting the project is still in the "early conceptual stages." The district is now waiting to hear from Braun as to what the next step may be. "There's so much potential with that property," Beery said. "It just depends on what entities and agencies can see that benefit – today and for the future."

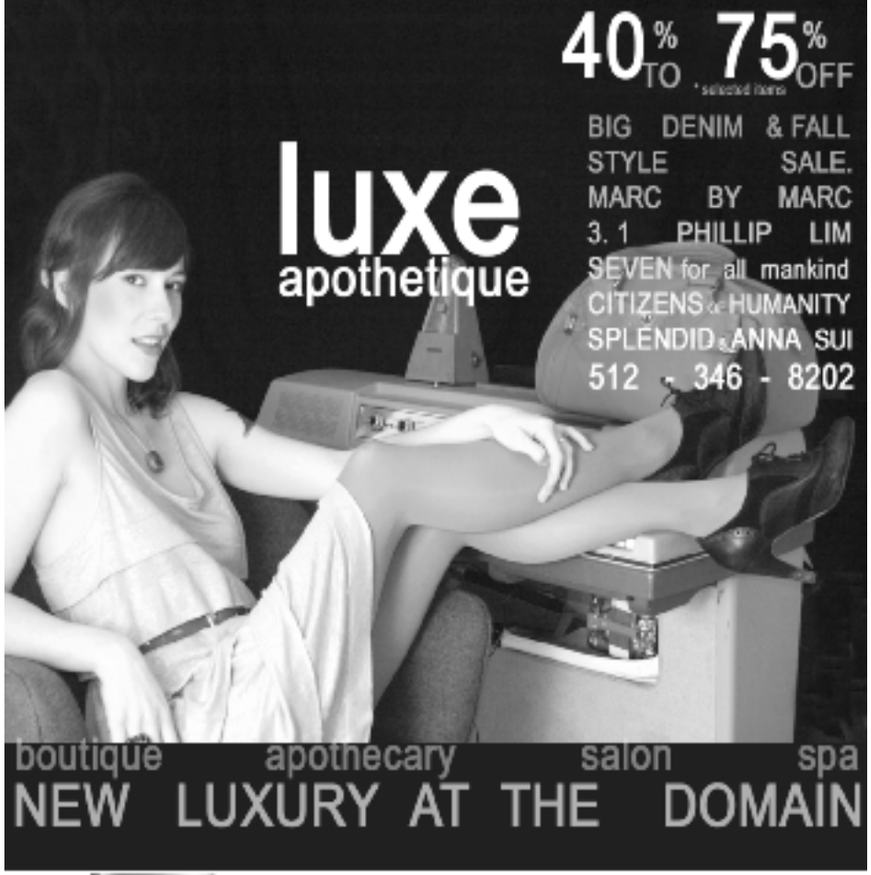
Barton laid out a rough timetable for a two-pronged feasibility period. The first phase, spanning 60-90 days, would structure an agreement with the family and lay out the specifics of public use. Commissioners Court discussions suggest $3 million of the tentative asking price would be paid up front, with the remainder paid over the next 10 to 15 years. A second feasibility period, which could last around 120 days, would take the proposal back to the Citizens Parks Advisory Team for a new, presumably higher score. During this phase, the family and court representatives would be identifying potential partners to bring to the table. "By the time the county really has to commit," Barton said, "we would have a clearer idea of what we would be getting for our money and who would help."

Of particular significance is any potential assistance the city of Austin could provide. "Whether or not they would be able to commit financially," Barton said, "we certainly recognize that they are a downstream user of the creek and aquifer … and of course there's always the possibility of a partnership, as well."

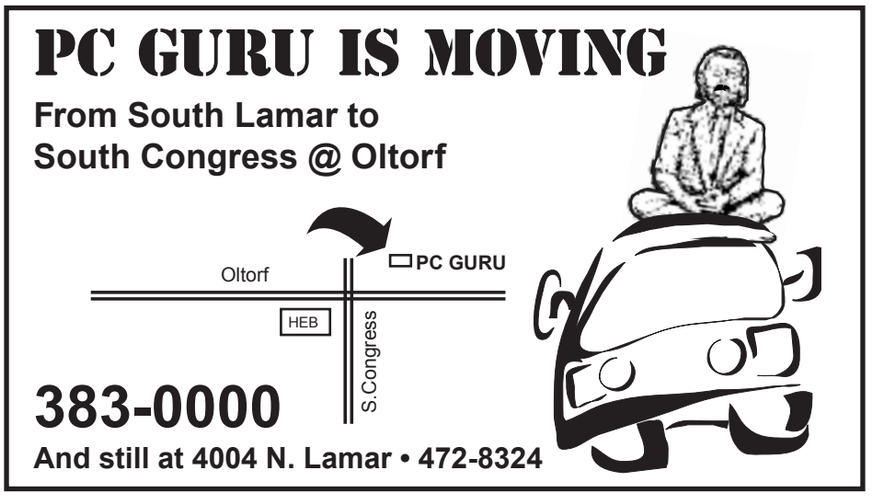
Braun noted that the property is "a really important part of the aquifer recharge," but although the "city of Austin has been buying this kind of easement for years … it's a fairly new concept in Hays County." The family is organizing volunteers from different agencies and organizations to help plan the public use of the property. Braun said he intends to meet with officials from the **Lower Colorado River Authority** to discuss the management of **Onion Creek**, which runs through the ranch. Ecologists have also been looking at the management of the landscape and its transition from a livestock operation to a conservation-oriented site. While Braun believes "interests and economics are very aligned" among the potential partners, he said the complexity of the deal will mean it could take most of 2008 to complete.

– Jacob Cottingham

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2nd Street District What's up with the management?

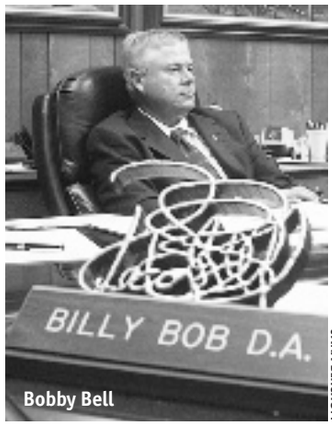
AMLI Management Co., the development and management group responsible for the **2nd Street District**, has said its decision to directly manage the ground-floor retail component should help the area's growth. In December, the district's retail management firm, Dallas-based **Urban Partners**, was replaced by AMLI after allegations of poor management and overbilling from the district's retail tenants. AMLI CEO **Steve Hallsey** called this a natural progression, saying, "If you think that AMLI has $100 million invested into this core, having AMLI manage the retail component certainly aligns everyone's interests, from development to the corporate office to how each of the business owners sees management taking place."

After repeated complaints from retail tenants that Urban Partners was unresponsive to complaints and requests, AMLI has hired permanent on-site management and a full-time marketing manager. Hallsey stressed, "Rather than directing a third-party manager, it's what we want done in what I like to think is a timely manner." However, retailers in the district noted that, while AMLI has said it will re-examine contested, outstanding utility bills, there has been no real movement on this issue, and several were still in default.

While this is the first time AMLI has done direct management of retail, Hallsey stressed his 15 years of experience in the field, including his time at **Glenboro Realty Trust**, where he was responsible for 33 million square feet of commercial and office space in 43 states. He also noted that, while there had been undeniable issues in the past, the district had more than doubled its retail sales from $26 million in 2006 to $54 million in 2007. Hallsey also emphasized the value of the city's **Great Streets** beautification program for opening the area up and attracting existing businesses like tapas bar **Málaga**, which plans to move from its current site on Fourth Street on April 1. Chef and owner **Alejandro Duran** said the move was partially because he had outgrown the kitchen at his old site. But comparing the district to growing up in Spain and spending time in San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter, he said, "The walker-friendly environment is a must and turns it into an immediate attraction." *– Richard Whittaker*

BILLY BOB DA CLAIMS CLEANLINESS

News flash: Jackson County District Attorney **Bobby Bell** has not been arrested on drug charges by DeWitt Co. law enforcers – at least not that DeWitt Co. Sheriff **Jode Zavesky** is aware of. That's the news from the crack reporting team at **KAVU-TV** in Victoria, who last week put that nasty rumor to rest – and how. It seems Texas' Golden Crescent has been teeming in recent weeks with rumors about the alleged criminal conduct of longtime DA Bell (aka "Billy Bob D.A.," according to the name plate displayed in his office) – indeed, a rumor that Bell was popped by DeWitt deputies for cocaine possession found its way to my inbox, as well. According to Bell, however, the rumor is not only untrue but also "very hurtful."



Bobby Bell JANA BIRCHUM

Bell is known in these pages as the man behind the questionable prosecution of lifelong Edna, Texas, resident **Frederick Patterson**, who Bell alleged was a big-time crack dealer in the sleepy town of fewer than 6,000 residents. Patterson and his wife, Jocelyn, were among 28 black residents (nearly 4% of the town's black population) nabbed in 2002 and identified as crack dealers in an undercover sting coordinated by Edna Police based on the thin and questionable evidence collected by an undercover informant and local crack addict. (Get the lowdown on Bell and the Edna sting in "Crackpot Crackdown," Oct. 21, 2005.) Suffice it to say, Bell isn't the most popular man in town – unless you somehow equate being feared with being popular. Indeed, numerous residents – black, white, and otherwise – have told the *Chronicle* that Bell wields his power like a hammer. So, it isn't exactly surprising that a rumor he'd been popped (either for drug possession or for drunk driving, depending on the source) spread so quickly. Indeed, it appears the allegation caught on fast enough and spread wide enough that reporters with the Victoria ABC affiliate felt obliged to check it out and to broadcast their findings: Where the rumors came from, **Jennifer Gayle** reported Jan. 24, no one seems to know. Sheriff Zavesky told the station his office has been getting calls regarding the Bell rumor for weeks – including from state officials wanting to know if Bell was, or had ever been, in his custody. Zavesky said he checked his records and with other local law enforcement agencies but found no evidence Bell was ever in custody. Bell said he was "very upset" about the allegation but that it won't deter him from doing his job "as effective as he can," Gayle reported. Still, Bell lamented, he can certainly understand why people might be "hesitant to get involved in public office, when people can just start a rumor like this that is not only unfounded but has no basis to it." *– Jordan Smith*

Joint Interim Committees Where are the dems?

As Lt. Gov. **David Dewhurst** and House Speaker **Tom Craddick** make their appointments to joint interim committees, Democrats are finding themselves with few or no members on these vital policy-building bodies.

On Jan. 23, Dewhurst announced his appointments to the **Select Committee on Public School Accountability**, a new 15-member task force comprised of legislators and stakeholders established last session: Sen. **Florence Shapiro**, R-Plano (as chair of the Senate Education Committee, she was on automatically), and Sen. **Tommy Williams**, R-The Woodlands. They join Rep. **Rob Eissler**, R-The Woodlands, in his role as chair of the House Committee on Public Education, and Craddick's appointee, freshman Rep. **Diane Patrick**, R-Arlington. The speaker's press secretary, **Alexis DeLee**, said all appointees are well-qualified, and there is diversity in the citizen appointments, but minority House caucus leader **Jim Dunnam** of Waco is not surprised the speaker excluded legislative Democrats. "It's what we've come to expect from Craddick on these appointments. No one with an alternative viewpoint gets on the conference committees," Dunnam said. He expressed particular disappointment that Rep. **Scott Hochberg**, D-San Antonio, had been passed over, in spite of his long record on public education and school accountability.

This comes after Dewhurst replaced two outgoing Dems on the **Sunset Advisory Commission** – **Eliot Shapleigh** of El Paso and **John Whitmire** of Houston – with a Democrat (**Juan Hinojosa** of McAllen) and a Republican (**Glenn Hegar** from Katy). While voicing her respect for the appointees to both committees, Senate Democratic caucus leader **Leticia Van de Putte** of San Antonio said she is "personally disappointed" about the new balance. Pointing to the Senate's long history of bipartisanship and consensus politics, Van de Putte said the lack of Democrats or Republicans from major city center, rural, border, or Central Texas districts on the accountability committee could lead to important voices being left unheard. Her staff will monitor the committee, but, she said, "There's a big difference between monitoring and having a seat at the table." She noted that getting consensus on the floor next session could be difficult, as Democrats will have a reduced role in forming whatever policy comes out of committee. "You can have us inside the tent or outside," Van de Putte said, "and you need consensus. You want buy-in." *– Richard Whittaker*

HAPPENINGS

For more events, see Community Listings, p.66.

THURSDAY 31

COME BACK TO GARRISON UT celebrates the reopening of Garrison Hall and the inauguration of the Institute for Historical Studies with tours, exhibits, talks, and films. The celebration starts Thursday (*4-7pm, Main Building, room 212*); lectures and screenings begin at *10am Friday*, addressing torture, the Vietnam War, economics, and religion in popular culture. See **www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/history/comeback** for full schedule. *Thu.-Fri., Jan. 31-Feb. 1. UT campus.*

FIGHT PROPOSED NUCLEAR PLANTS IN TEXAS Nuclear Free Texas presents information on two new proposed plants and how you can help block them. *8pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925.* **www.nukefreetexas.org**.

FOCUS THE NATION CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE As part of a national series of campus teach-ins, St. Edward's University presents a full day of workshops and panels devoted to brainstorming solutions to global warming. *9:30am-5pm. Ragsdale Center at St. Edward's University, 3001 S. Congress, 464-8871. Free.* **www.focusthenation.org**.

FRIDAY 01

CITY OF AUSTIN BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION Huston-Tillotson President Larry Earvin presents a keynote on Black History Month founder Carter G. Woodson. The H-T University and Campbell Elementary School choirs perform, and Travis County Judge Samuel Biscoe emcees. *10:30-11:30am. Boyd Vance Theatre at Carver, 1165 Angelina, 583-7227. Free.* **www.austintexas.org**.

SATURDAY 02

KENTUCKY FRIED CRUELTY PROTEST against KFC's treatment of animals. Call or e-mail. *1-3pm. KFC, 2224 E. Riverside, 557-7214. Free.* **sthomas4242@yahoo.com**, **www.myspace.com/kfctorturesanimals**.

NATURALIZATION CLINIC The Political Asylum Project of Austin sponsors this clinic for individuals who need help applying for U.S. citizenship. *9am-5pm. PAPA, 314 E. Highland Mall Blvd. #501, 478-0546 x207.* **www.papaustin.org**.

PASSAGE OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD Join the Austin Children's Choir for musical performances, exhibits, films, arts and crafts, and more in celebration of Black History Month. *1-5pm. George Washington Carver Museum, 1165 Angelina, 450-4395. $5.* **www.austinchildrenschoir.com**.

SUNDAY 03

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM Political-science professor Gary Keith discusses his recent book, *Eckhardt: There Once Was a Congressman From Texas*. *11:30am-12:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free.* **www.austinuu.org**.

MONDAY 04

CENTER FOR INQUIRY AUSTIN'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT LECTURE SERIES presents Belief and Unbelief in George Bush's America, a talk from UT history professor G. Howard Miller. *7-8:30pm. Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center, 919-4115. Free.* **www.centerforinquiry.net/austin**.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATE FORUM The Texas Moratorium Network and American Civil Liberties Union of Texas host this 90-minute forum with all four DA candidates. *6pm. Gene's New Orleans Style Poboys & Deli, 1209 E. 11th, 573-6194. Free.* **www.aclutx.org**.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS: CITY WEBSITE REDESIGN Share your thoughts on how Austin's city websites can be improved. *7pm. George Washington Carver Museum, 1165 Angelina, 472-4809. Free.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us/austingo**.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR TEXAS PRIMARIES Register by 12mid. (Visit **www.traviscountytax.org** to check registration status.) *7:30am-12mid. Travis Co. Voter Registrar, 5501 Airport, 854-9473. Free.*

TUESDAY 05

CITYWIDE BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM: CARTER G. WOODSON & THE ORIGINS OF MULTICULTURALISM Rep. Dawnna Dukes speaks. *11:30am-1pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. Free.*

WEDNESDAY 06

KEEP AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL AWARDS LUNCHEON honors Austin's hardest-working environmental stewards. *11am-1pm. Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 391-0622. $60 ($500, table of eight).* **www.keepaustinbeautiful.org**.

THURSDAY 07

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY The Wright House Wellness Center provides free, confidential HIV/STD testing and features slam poetry, step performances, free food, prize giveaways, and more. *11:30am-5pm. ACC Eastview, 3401 Webberville, 223-5173. Free.* **www.thewrighthouse.org**.

THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

THE ECONOMIC TREPIDATIONS OF THE RICH

Time for another peek into the lifestyles of the rich and cranky.

The rich would like a little more respect from you hoi polloi. They are fatigued by all this news coverage about the economic travails of the hardworking middle class. First, the subprime mortgage collapse got all the headlines, with sob stories about low-income families losing their homes. Then came the hue and cry about the hardships caused by rising gasoline prices. And now even Republican presidential candidates are trying to "feel the pain" of working stiffs.

Puh-leeze. Do reporters think those people are the only ones suffering today? What about the pinch being felt by the rich? Do reporters not know about the downturn this past holiday season in luxury purchases at Saks Fifth Avenue, Nordstrom, and Tiffany & Co.? I tell you, it was an absolutely dreadful experience.

While the media moaned and groaned about the shopping slowdown at Target and other downscale stores, they expressed not a whit of concern about the sluggishness at Tiffany, for example. In the upscale suburbs of New York City, Tiffany stores had a 10% drop in sales! This renowned jeweler to the rich reports that sales were alarmingly soft on items like $10,000 pendants and brooches. If that's not a sign of suffering, then I don't know what is! Yet, all the clueless reporters rushed off to interview tacky Wal-Mart shoppers, as though their little purchases are going to sustain America's mighty economic machine.

The only good news for upscale marketers is that the superrich are still buying. Tiffany reports its sales of jewelry costing $50,000 and up continued to be strong, especially among Europeans, Asians, and Middle Eastern buyers who came here to shop, taking advantage of the weak American dollar.

Thank goodness for that, right?

MOLLY IVINS

We progressives, we Americans – and anyone, anywhere who loves liberty and justice – have lost a true, trusted friend. Molly Ivins died one year ago today (Thursday).

Yet, Molly was more than a person. She is a spirit – a big, boisterous, joyful, irreverent, hell-raising, fun-loving, muckraking, uninhibited, maverick spirit.

As such, she lives.

I first encountered her in 1970, when she exploded from the pages of *The Texas Observer* like a supernova. She was full of wit, smarts, and sass, grabbing readers by their hearts, minds, gonads, and funny bones. Damn, I thought, no human can write like that! She could knock you over and lift you up in the same sentence. It was her spirit coming at you.

For 40 years or so, Molly wrote, spoke, taught, and agitated all across America, rallying progressive souls with the expressive force of that spirit to stand a little taller, get a little noisier, help whack some pompous plutocrat or asinine autocrat right in the snout – then go have some beers and an uproarious laugh.

In my years of knowing her, I found her to have five passions: 1) good, solid, and brave investigative Journalism (with a capital "J"); 2) the Bill of Rights – I think she spoke at more American Civil Liberties Union meetings than any president of that organization; 3) progressive politics, aggressively populist, putting the corporate structure and the money powers right in our sights; 4) underdogs; and 5) the merry combination of good friends, good drink, and good fun (she orchestrated many a wild game of charades in her home, playing it as a full-body contact sport).

At my last dinner with her, Molly turned to me and said out of the side of her mouth, "This has been a hell of a ride." She meant the months of trying to stay atop the cancer bucking within her, but it also sums up her 62 years in this life. Molly came to us as a spirit, lived with us as such, and has now left us with that spirit. She did her part – and our happy task is to carry on the fiery, loving, laughing essence of Molly.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown – *visit* **www.jimhightower.com**.







Prosecutor Times Four

Part 1: Meet the candidates for Travis County district attorney

BY JORDAN SMITH

After three decades as Travis County district attorney, Ronnie Earle announced in mid-December that he would not run again, retiring from the post he has held since 1977. Over the years, Earle became a venerated Austin icon with a national reputation, not only for his dogged handling of public corruption cases – most recently his ongoing prosecution of former Republican Rep. Tom DeLay and his Texans for a Republican Majority PAC – but also for his interest in alternatives to incarceration and in community and restorative justice programs targeting the root causes of crime. His legacy is long, and his shoes are large, making the campaign to take over his office one of the most important races, locally and statewide, this year.









Clockwise from top left: Rosemary Lehmberg, Gary Cobb, Rick Reed, Mindy Montford

Not only will the new DA manage the operations of a felony criminal justice system in a major urban center, but the winning candidate – effectively selected by the March 4 Democratic primary – must also be ready to become the state watchdog over cases of public corruption, as the face of and muscle behind the Public Integrity Unit. Under Texas law, the Travis Co. DA is the only prosecutor vested with the authority to investigate cases of public corruption involving state officials and agencies. In the absence of any statewide Democratic officials, Earle is now routinely described as "the most powerful Democrat in Texas," and many Republicans and some Democrats have bristled at his prosecutorial reach. There have been several legislative attempts, thus far unsuccessful, to move the power to prosecute public corruption from the Travis Co. DA's office to that of the attorney general. In that context, this primary race has unusual importance beyond county borders – and powerful interests at the Capitol and across the state will take a direct and potentially influential interest in the outcome.

In short, being the DA in Travis Co. is a pretty daunting job. Yet four of Earle's assistant district attorneys have declared themselves ready and willing to take it on: Rosemary Lehmberg, Earle's first assistant; Gary Cobb, currently in the office's grand jury division; Mindy Montford, who works in the trial division; and Rick Reed, currently assigned to the PIU. All four are Democrats; with no Republican having filed, whoever gets the most votes in the March 4 Democratic primary (pending a run-off) will emerge the presumptive new district attorney.

What follows is a working introduction to the careers and qualifications of the four candidates. Next week, Part 2: A closer look.

Rosemary Lehmberg: Earle's Right Hand

The longest-serving veteran in the race to replace Earle is Rosemary Lehmberg, who has worked there for 31 years – some six months longer than Earle himself. During her tenure, Lehmberg has headed up every major division within the office – including time as chief over trial courts and over the Public Integrity Unit. Since 1997 she has served as Earle's first assistant; as his right hand, Lehmberg handles the "day-to-day business" of the office, she says, which includes managing its personnel and $13.5 million budget. Like Earle, Lehmberg is a proponent of programs that provide alternatives to incarceration – in the annals of Lehmberg lore is the story of how she advocated for the use of a "sentencing circle" (a community approach to meting out justice based on Native American tradition) for a defendant caught with a set of golf clubs he'd stolen from her garage. Lehmberg says that while she is "oriented to the … courtroom," she believes it's important to make sure the office has resources dedicated to these kinds of alternate programs for use in "appropriate cases" that can be redirected from regular court dockets. For example, she says the office has "got to get a handle on our drug cases – a third of the cases on our docket are felony drug cases. We need drug courts" and must advocate for the addition of more "drug beds" – access to treatment for nonviolent offenders.

Lehmberg is presumably the early frontrunner, in part because of her institutional knowledge, which leaves her best positioned to provide a smooth and cohesive transfer of leadership. She says she has the "experience and motivation" and can provide the "steady leadership that we need right now." In mid-January, she received a glowing endorsement from Earle, who said she "has had a greater role in the success of the Travis County district attorney's office than any other single person." Lehmberg says her "biggest priority" as DA would be in leading (and expanding, if possible) the PIU, because it is "important to protect our authority as guardians over the state Capitol," in an effort to "make sure we have just a little less government for sale."

Gary Cobb: Crime Fighter

To Gary Cobb, a 17-year veteran county prosecutor, the work of the PIU is important – but not necessarily more so than the nuts-and-bolts prosecutions the office handles every day. "Crime is crime, whether you're dealing with white-collar crime or 'hood crime,'" he says. "It shouldn't matter." Still, he has no doubt that he'd have the backbone to face the pressure inherent with investigating and potentially prosecuting state lawmakers. He has often been personally assigned "tough cases," he says, precisely because he handles them well. Cobb also favors finding alternates to incarceration, especially for nonviolent drug offenders (for whom, he says, imprisonment too often ensures only that the "user comes out as a criminal"), as a means to free the docket so the office can focus on prosecuting violent offenses.

Cobb is the only minority candidate in the race, and believes he has more "of a feeling for how the community wants prosecutors" to handle cases. "The community wants cases [pursued on] violent offenders," he said. "In state-jail felonies, lower-level drug cases … they want us to stop putting people in prison. They don't want more black and brown men on parole – it messes up their lives."

Cobb says he doesn't think that under Earle the office has done enough to implement alternative programs. He says the office needs to "focus on following through on good goals; I see a lot of good goals – we never really keep going until we get to that good goal." He concludes, "If you think that in 30 years … this has become the best [DA] office in Texas, then Rosemary deserves the job," he said. "I understand the promise of what that office can do."

Mindy Montford: Youthful Change

Montford identifies herself as the candidate of "real change." Like Cobb, she suspects that if Lehmberg is victorious, not much would change in the daily operation of the office. Montford wants more. "My energy is huge. I've got great ideas that we need to explore," she said. "I am the only person that is talking about ways to change the office. Others talk in broad strokes about these things; I say, 1, 2, 3, 4." Indeed, Montford

has been most specific regarding a handful of things she'd like to see happen – including the institution of a 24-hour intake office at the county's central booking facility. This would streamline the docket, she says, eliminating excess jail time – in some cases for inmates charged with crimes the office simply can't prosecute (if, for example, police lacked probable cause for the initial arrest). Montford would also like to create an expedited "rocket" docket in family-violence cases, to cut down on the number of cases where witnesses disappear or decide not to press charges against their abuser.

Montford also says she'd like more public transparency; she'd like to institute monthly meetings with media, "to let them know what is happening" in the office and believes the office needs a policy that outlines "six or 10 things" a prosecutor is required to present to each grand jury, as a means to demystifying this otherwise secretive process. "What I think is, you can [then] tell the community, 'You can't be there, but at least you can trust the process.'"

At 37, Montford is the youngest and least-experienced candidate, but she sees that as a potential advantage, calling "the words I hate the most – 'that's the way we've always done it.'" Her relative youth prompts the question of whether she yet has what it takes to handle such a large office – especially to execute the office's role as public-corruption watchdog, despite the inevitable counterattacks and political pressure.

Montford grew up in politics – her father, John Montford, was himself Lubbock County district attorney and a Democratic state senator from 1983-1996. Since 2001, he has been a senior vice president and lobbyist at AT&T (formerly SBC Communications). Mindy began her Democratic activism as a University of Texas student. She's the only union member (AFSCME) in the race and was endorsed by Austin's Central Labor Council. She says she believes the work of the PIU is the most important work of the DA. "People often say that those [public-corruption cases] are the 'victimless crimes.' I say, 'Are you kidding me?'" she said. "Democracy crumbles if someone is not there to watch it." She has been endorsed by powerful Democratic political figures (former Govs. Mark White and Dolph Briscoe) and was able to raise considerable funds very quickly to kick-start her campaign, giving her the strongest early media presence.

Rick Reed: Taking Responsibility

Reed says he understands exactly what it takes to be a public watchdog: Four years ago, Earle tapped him as one of a handful of assistants put to work on the PIU cases against DeLay and TRMPAC. Reed has worked on the investigation of the cases and presentation to the grand jury, and he says he's not afraid to pursue such cases to the end. In fact, he says his philosophy of prosecution is about doing the right thing, not necessarily the easy thing. Like Montford, Reed grew up with politics – his father, Dick Reed, was a two-term state rep. from Dallas who was among the fabled "Dirty 30" who battled the House leadership. In the mid-Eighties, working as a young lawyer under then Dallas Co. DA Henry Wade, he said he learned how not to be a prosecutor: In Wade's office, he said, moving up the food chain was based solely on the number of convictions notched in your belt. "The focus was on winning and not so much doing the right thing," he said. "Early on, I took the position that that might be the basis of promotion, but I had to live with myself and was going to focus on doing what was right."

Reed worked in Dallas Co. for 12 years before running for DA himself; he lost. He moved to Austin and the Travis Co. DA's office in 1998. In all, he has worked under three DAs – giving him the most perspective, he says. Here, no one knows any way but the Earle way, and that's a problem, he says. In Travis Co. he sees a "culture of indecision – a fear of making a mistake. … So the tendency is to empanel [a committee] to make … decisions" – like when to seek the death penalty. That is "not only a waste of time, and not necessarily making better quality decisions … and delaying resolution of … cases." Reed says every prosecutor must take personal responsibility for his or her cases.

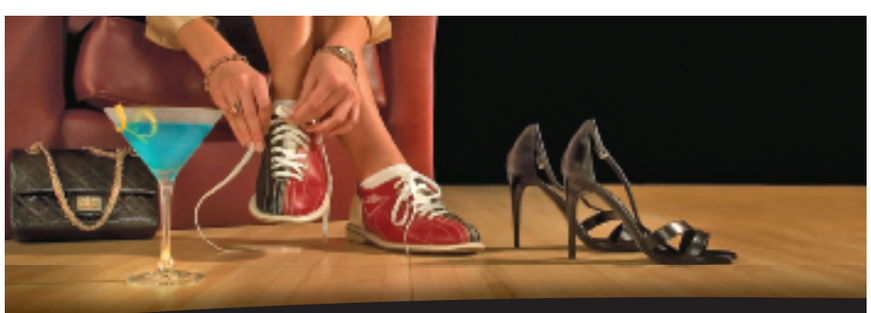
Reed is the only candidate in the race who has promised that, if elected, he would institute a moratorium on seeking the death penalty. (The anti-death-penalty Texas Moratorium Network and former Travis Co. Judge Bill Aleshire, among others, have challenged the DA candidates to make this promise; although capital cases have long been rare in Travis Co., Cobb, Montford, and Lehmberg say they will not categorically rule out capital prosecutions.) Says Reed, "For a number of reasons, I think that we've reached a point in time as a society that we need to realize it is an [outmoded] form of punishment and not justified." ■

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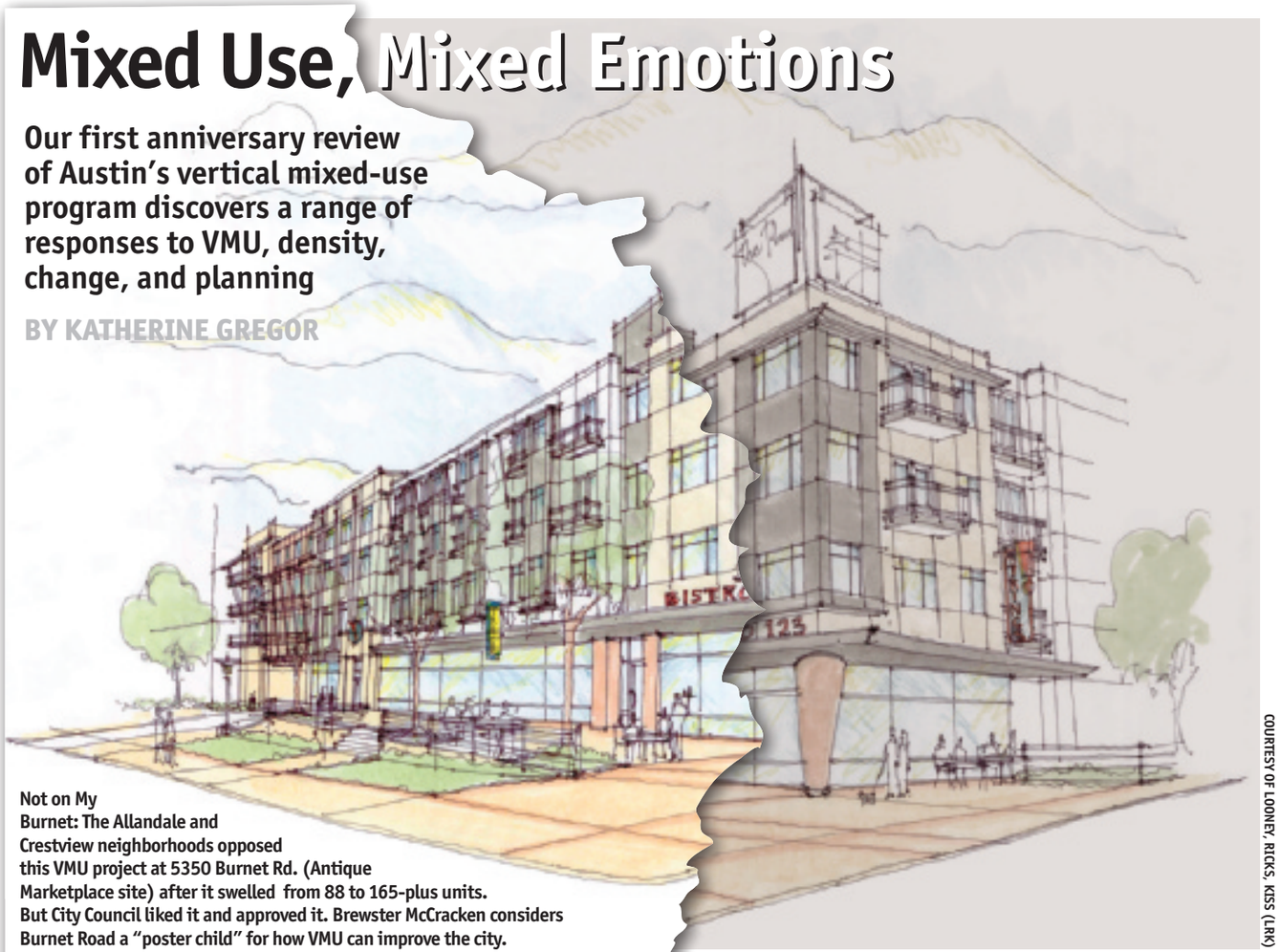

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Mixed Use, Mixed Emotions

Our first anniversary review of Austin's vertical mixed-use program discovers a range of responses to VMU, density, change, and planning

BY KATHERINE GREGOR



COURTESY OF LOONEY, RICKS, KISS (LRK)

Not on My Burnet: The Allandale and Crestview neighborhoods opposed this VMU project at 5350 Burnet Rd. (Antique Marketplace site) after it swelled from 88 to 165-plus units. But City Council liked it and approved it. Brewster McCracken considers Burnet Road a "poster child" for how VMU can improve the city.

One year ago, Austin embarked on a complex experiment in populist urban planning known as "VMU." That's "vertical mixed-use," a new zoning tool to advance the broader City Council policy of promoting dense, more sustainable growth. A brief refresher: To qualify for VMU incentives (more units to sell or rent, less required parking, etc.), a development team must stack several stories of housing atop shops, cafes, and small offices and follow the city's design standards for good urban form and streetscapes. Projects must be sited on major roads ("core transit corridors") within the VMU Overlay District. Most innovative for Austin, VMU projects must reserve 10% of units as affordable housing.

What made VMU a uniquely populist experiment was an 11th-hour addition to the ordinance: giving individual neighborhoods a voice. Citizens – through their official neighborhood planning teams – were invited to tailor VMU by opting individual properties in or out. That opt-in/opt-out process is now complete. All neighborhoods have submitted their recommendations to the Planning Commission; in December, those began going forward to City Council for final decisions. Amid session-to-session drama over whether council members will adhere fully to each neighborhood's wishes, it's timely to reflect on what VMU has wrought.

Council began with the "easy cases"; in the first batch, council endorsed, unanimously on consent, all the neighborhood requests. But other cases moving up from Planning Commission will be more controversial. On Jan. 15 the commission posted, but for a variety of reasons postponed, items on neighborhood recommendations from Old West Austin, Central Austin, and Govalle-Johnston Terrace. They endorsed neighborhood recommendations from Judges' Hill (which opted out just four properties), Hyde Park (which opted out nearly 100% because the neighborhood plan contains its own design standards), and East MLK (which voted "hell, no" and opted out the whole area). At its Feb. 20 meeting, the commission's Neighborhood Planning Subcommittee plans to dig deeper into why area sentiments vary so widely.

A steady flow of cases should be posted for each upcoming council session; at this rate, finalizing the VMU Overlay District will take several more months. Council members say they're generally predisposed to endorse what neighborhoods recommend – except perhaps for those that dissed VMU (and thus council policy) altogether.

Maturing Civic Dialogue

VMU gave form to a number of laudable council policies: higher design standards, required green building, more sustainable land-use patterns à la Envision Central Texas, and concentrating increased density along major corridors to protect neighborhoods. By requiring affordable housing, it also implemented the "density bonus" principle, in which developers must provide community benefits to earn additional entitlements.

Other Austin overlay districts have treated development as a negative force; their protectionist purpose is to save existing things we value, like historic buildings or the waterfront. The new VMU Overlay District, by contrast, approaches new development as a positive tool for creating desirable change. (Its only real predecessor is the University Neighborhood Overlay, north and west of UT.) It thus marks a true sea change in Austin thinking – to which many developer-hating, longtime Austin activists have not caught up.

Sustainable Neighborhoods' call for the city to conduct comprehensive planning – as opposed to advancing stand-alone initiatives, however worthy – may be the real solution to community ambivalence over VMU.

The three-year consensus stakeholder process that produced the city's Design Standards Ordinance (of which VMU is a part) and the following year of neighborhood deliberation over awarding pro-density VMU incentives also marked a shift in Austin attitudes. "There has been a measurable maturing of the civic dialogue about development – and it's about time," says Mayor Will Wynn, a VMU enthusiast. "I wish we were further down the road, but I'm pleased we're going down it. It's painful, and there are big challenges, but these are exciting times."

Opt In, Opt Out

Whatever else, VMU choices have provided a historic opportunity for the community to speak out. Has all the effort and community teeth-gnashing been worth it? Will the changed cityscape it fosters be positive for Austin? The answer depends on whom you ask. VMU itself, and the city's process, certainly have made enemies and earned critics. Some neighborhoods found the experience too polarizing, the city's support inadequate, the zoning intricacies impossibly daunting. Yet even with its flaws, the opportunity to have a voice was largely embraced.

By participating in VMU decisions, regular Austinites became city-makers. The residents who know each neighborhood best debated VMU's merits, then tweaked its application – parcel by parcel, block by block, corridor by corridor. Love a local business or a stand of ancient oaks? Opt that baby out. Hate the ugly drive-through bank or blighted shopping center on the corner? Opt that baby in. Don't trust developers or the city, period? Opt out the whole damn neighborhood! (A few did.)

No precise tally exists for a citywide VMU scorecard, but of the applications submitted, said city staff, roughly a third generally supports VMU, a third does not, and a third accepts at least some VMU incentives some of the time. Beyond that, neighborhood responses are hard to categorize, due to the many twists and turns in how each neighborhood tweaked incentives and maps. For example, a neighborhood might have opted out entirely of the dimensional standards incentive (which allows the developer more living units and thus profits) but might have accepted the reduced-parking incentive (which reduces the developer's costs). Some took a fine-tooth VMU comb to sorting properties (see "To Opt, or Not? Zilker Tweaks VMU," p.30), while others accepted the entire overlay – or didn't respond at all.

In retrospect, such a detailed planning assignment may not have been entirely appropriate to delegate to amateurs. But many participants observed that the buy-in achieved would have been less likely with a top-down process dictated by "experts." The complex process did drag out far beyond the initial 90-day timeline, and some landowners, developers, and architects wanting VMU zoning for their projects became frustrated. Neighborhood-planning teams that dug into the details took months to decide on the optimal future of every single parcel within the whole overlay district. That's thousands upon thousands of individual tracts, on 51 miles of major roads, from Slaughter Lane to 183.

Predictably, the neighbors who took on this huge volunteer task often had wildly differing

attitudes toward neighborhood change. In some areas, neighborhood planning team and neighborhood association members disagreed seriously over VMU in principle, let alone its application on specific tracts. Still, considering the process' complexity, raw newness, and massive scope, things could have gone far worse. As city planning officer George Adams noted recently with relief, "It wasn't a train wreck!"

Allandale Angst

But in some parts of town, that train whistled by awfully close. Allandale exemplifies a neighborhood with a highly conflicted and ultimately negative take on VMU. While its objections weren't typical, they offer insight into how planning efforts can be further strengthened. Already bloodied and polarized by the Northcross Mall fight, in which the Allandale Neighborhood Association unsuccessfully sued both the city and the developer, ANA's executive committee was in no mood to support another bright idea from the city. Indeed, the detailed, 20-page statement attached to Allandale's VMU application (online at **www.allandale.typepad.com**) referenced "the lack of consideration of projects which are already approved for construction by the City of Austin," citing Northcross Mall and two other big, new projects on their core transit corridors – Burnet Road and Anderson Lane.

"The Vertical Mixed Use Overlay District was created without the required input of the impacted neighborhoods and without adequately addressing infrastructure such as streets and water/wastewater/electricity lines," objected Allandale, echoing its Northcross criticisms. It also lambasted the city for "using code changes to circumvent notice requirements [to adjoining private homeowners], with respect to de facto zoning changes."

A primary Allandale concern was how density increases would translate to traffic congestion: failed roads and intersections, spillover traffic clogging neighborhood streets, slow emergency-response times, slowed buses. As residents rightly point out, without linking new transit to VMU, congested streets are the inevitable result of densification. The new Cap Metro Red Line will stop at North Lamar and Justin Lane; that transit station is spawning Crestview Station (a VMU project) but currently offers no circulators to Allandale.

"We believe that insufficient time has been allowed to adequately determine the interrelated impacts of VMU on the neighborhoods of Austin," Allandale objected. "A complex new process requires neighborhoods to respond with a well-thought-out plan, yet we are given only the power of suggestion and a 'one shot deal' without the power of determination."

In June, a 5-4 vote by the ANA executive committee endorsed the recommendations submitted – which opt out most individual properties in the district. (Exceptions were Northcross Mall and properties on Burnet Road near North Loop.) In so doing, the executive committee overruled its own VMU team – which had accepted most of the VMU Overlay District as created, but with conditions.

A test case went to council Nov. 8: the mixed-use redevelopment of 5350 Burnet Rd., site of the Antique Marketplace. Allandale and adjoining neighborhoods were opposed to granting the "early consideration" variance (actually for another form of mixed-use zoning), largely because the developer's proposed 68 living units per acre approached Downtown densities. The Crestview

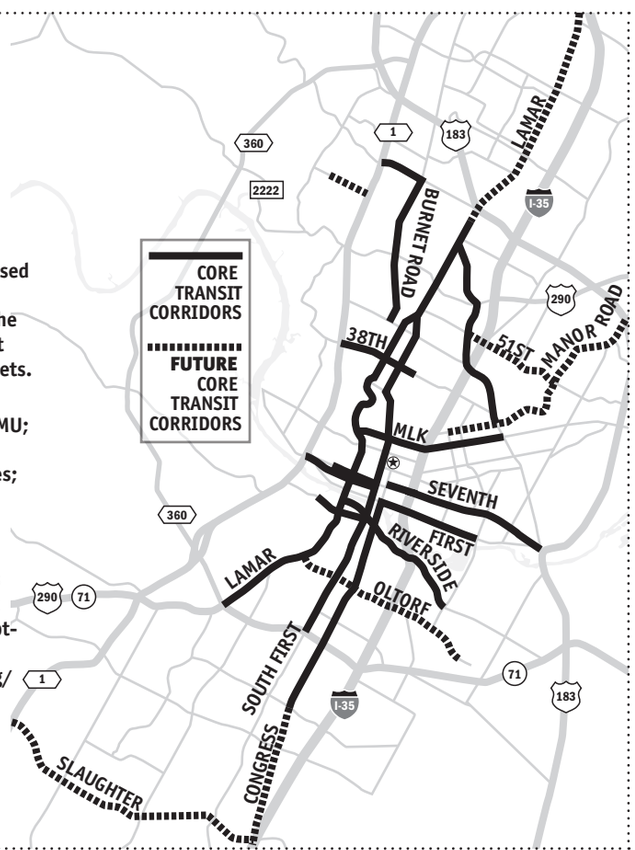
continued on p.28

VMU Overlay District

Citywide impact: Neighborhoods within the VMU Overlay are those crossed by the major roads shown. The overlay includes only the commercial properties that front directly on these streets.

About a third of neighborhoods were pro-VMU; another third accepted at least some of the incentives; the other third said, "No, thanks."

Online, an interactive VMU-OD map viewer shows parcel-by-parcel details; it will be updated after all opt-ins/outs are finalized. See www.ci.austin.tx.us/planning/verticalmixeduse.htm.



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Roy Lichtenstein, *Crying Girl*, 1963, Offset lithograph, edition of approx. 300, 18 X 24 inches, Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, 2004.287, © Estate of Roy Lichtenstein

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JOHN ANDERSON

VMU on the ground: Second Street

Neighborhood Association also opposed the project in a letter to council stating that "VMU, as currently implemented, will destroy our neighborhoods," primarily because it includes no density caps.

Neighborhood leaders Chip Harris, Steve Keuhner, and Jonathan Lockin tactfully suggested, "We think that the density levels, density zones, and walkability requirements described in the TOD [transit-oriented development] and TN [traditional neighborhood] zoning categories may be better suited to certain locations along Burnet than the VMU ordinance alone." Indeed, the place-making principles that inform the city's TOD planning are more sophisticated. But council agreed with the Planning Commission and unanimously voted 7-0 to award the requested zoning – though it set a project cap of 175 living units and disallowed neighborhood street access.

On Anderson Lane, the Lamy Group plans to redevelop the Village Shopping Center into a major VMU project on 12 acres, which could take a decade. According to the North Shoal Creek NA, that project will have a final size of about 645,000 square feet – more than four times that of the current shopping center. It includes 430 new apartments; they'd like the Alamo Drafthouse Village to remain as an anchor tenant. Now conversing are the neighborhoods and developers Joe and Pete Lamy (who did the well-received VMU-esque project at 3200 Guadalupe) before the project goes to Planning Commission.

Another frequently expressed anxiety: The mayor and City Council have enacted policies like VMU to add more people to the urban core, in the name of sustainability, yet have failed to take corresponding action to disincentivize sprawl. As Allandale resident Allan McMurtry e-mailed the *Chronicle* recently: "The very people arguing for tubular VMU [the core transit corridor approach] are the ones who have brought us $3.2 billion in toll roads running out 25 miles from downtown. That's not density, that's extra-urban sprawl, or exburbs as they are being called. Lincoln Properties is bringing North Austin Wal-Mart as the solution to sprawl, while building the solar system's largest mall at US 71 and FM 62." McMurtry also noted that on Burnet Road, bus ridership is a miserably low 2.4 persons per mile. (Actually, Cap Metro statistics show that Route 3-Burnet/Manchaca carries 2.18 passengers per mile.)

Nuclear Enthusiastic

But many neighborhoods are excited about gaining well-designed new additions, built to exacting design standards, with some affordable housing. In contrast to Allandale, in nearby Brentwood and Rosedale, VMU sailed through almost entirely as written, noted Brewster McCracken. Calling Allandale a "hot spot," McCracken attributed the sharply differing responses from adjacent neighborhoods to the personalities involved: "It depends on who the leaders are in a given neighborhood." He also pointed out that Austin Neighborhoods Council leaders Laura Morrison, Danette Chimenti, and Kevin Lewis were strong advocates of the Design Standards Ordinance that contains VMU. Those standards directly reference the Envision Central Texas model for favoring density nodes over sprawl. McCracken also said it was ANC representatives who insisted on VMU review by neighborhood planning teams – some of which had become inactive after their plan was adopted.

McCracken said he did not perceive an Eastside-West Austin split in responses to VMU. While the East Riverside team may have voiced a "hell, no," the East Cesar Chavez team opted in new VMU areas along East Fifth and Sixth to encourage redevelopment. Cherrywood and Blackshear were bullish; Rosewood opted-in 12 properties and opted out just two. Windsor Park was so split over VMU and neighborhood planning that a rogue group erupted (Responsible Growth for Windsor Park), but it ultimately opted in additional areas to encourage VMU redevelopment of an outdated shopping center.

What the 41-year-old council member who drove adoption of design standards and VMU (and who lives in the Triangle) did notice was a generational pattern. In Northwest Hills, for example, about 250 people expressed views. He said residents older than 60 were generally opposed to VMU and the neighborhood change it represents, whereas most younger than 40 were "nuclear enthusiastic" in favor. The generation in the middle, he said, was "VMU persuadable." In the end, Northwest Hills ranked in the top three for opt-ins – along with Southwood in South Austin and Rosewood.

One Allandale resident supportive of VMU's potential is Steven Zettner. But he and like-minded others advocate a "node-based" retooling, to replace the corridor approach. This would cluster new density carefully around transit stations (as in transit-oriented development) rather than stringing it out along long roadways. Zettner is on the board of a new organization, Sustainable Neighborhoods, founded by the Allandale, Brentwood, and Crestview neighborhood associations "to advocate a vision of density in North Central Austin that is neighborhood-friendly," he said. "By that I mean applying all the principles of the Charter for New Urbanism, including well-defined and highly walkable village and town centers, supported with mass transit, mixed use, public open space, affordability." Zettner said by e-mail that he sees "momentum building" for "comprehensively planning VMU, transportation, and open space all at once. To succeed, we need to save our VMU entitlement bullets. I think there may be vision and leadership at City Hall to help make this happen. I'm cautiously optimistic."

A Call for Comprehensiveness

For five years, the city of Austin has relied on the loose, broad-brush vision of Envision Central Texas without creating a solid, detailed comprehensive plan to enact it. Sustainable Neighborhoods' call for the city to conduct comprehensive planning – as opposed to advancing stand-alone initiatives, however worthy – may be the real solution to community ambivalence over VMU. South of the river in Zilker, that call is echoed by Jeff Jack. He calls VMU "at best a stop-gap solution until we have that comprehensive plan."

Jack added: "Since we have no comprehensive plan in place that tells us what kind of population growth is appropriate for Austin, we are asked to accept VMU as the solution to accommodating growth. But we have no assurance that, when all the VMU is built out, we won't be back at square one fighting commercial creep" into the heart of residential neighborhoods. He continued, "We need to work to define that strategic policy for growth management that gives us some assurance that the fabric of our community will be respected."

Signs are emerging that City Hall and city management may be coming to a similar conclusion (though not officially aligning with perennial council-thorn Jeff Jack). Those signs include a December council resolution to update the 1979 Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan (see "The Bigger Picture," Jan. 11) and a Planning Commission initiative for a "new urbanist" 2035 plan. The Austin Neighborhoods Council and Liveable City also laud comprehensive planning. McCracken, conceding that "neighborhood planning is not working well" in Austin, said he was attracted to the idea of holistic planning for "Quality of Life Zones," as Atlanta has done.

In May 2006, City Manager Toby Futrell stifled initiation of an updated comp plan process. By contrast, new City Manager Marc Ott has spent the past six years in a city, Fort Worth, that maintains an active comprehensive plan and updates it every year. Ott said that, as Fort Worth's assistant city manager over infrastructure services, he has overseen an annual update process that is highly inclusive – inviting and weighing input from citizens, community groups, town hall meetings, and city staff from all departments.

Engaging Local Values

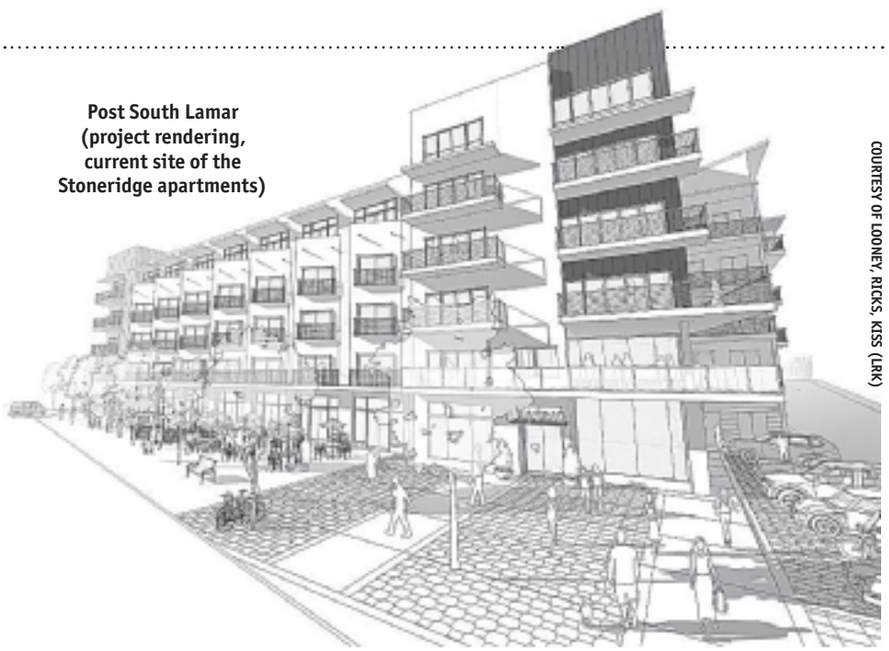
On balance, McCracken cited a series of VMU breakthroughs. First, "VMU is actually producing tangible changes, real live projects, with the support of both neighborhoods and developers." He believes that success endorses the "100 percent consensus model" used to craft the Design Standards and Mixed Use Ordinance. Representatives from both ANC and the Real Estate Council of Austin were at every meeting, said McCracken: "Anyone in Austin could come to any meeting, and everyone in the room had to agree." He believes this consensual approach "produces results we can live with, going down the road."

"We'll have even more meaningful information on whether VMU works for developers two to three years out," said Brett Denton, a VMU developer who participated in that process as a RECA representative. He's particularly interested to see whether the market proves (or not) the extra value promised to developers for well-designed, neighbor-friendly mixed-use projects. Said Denton, "Once we have a handful of projects completed, it would be good to do another wholesale review of what worked and what didn't."

Another key breakthrough cited by McCracken: integrating local values into development code, in the form of required community benefits. "People in Austin are rightfully very skeptical of growth for growth's sake. The message from VMU is that the community will get behind, by and large, growth that has a purpose behind it and reflects local values," said McCracken. He credits Paul Hilgers in Neighborhood Housing and Community Development with advocating for the key inclusion of required affordable housing in VMU. As it turns out, that may have proved the key to its widespread acceptance.

Austin Neighborhoods Council President Danette Chimenti accompanied McCracken to some of his local presentations and had the opportunity to hear VMU dialogue in neighborhoods all over town. She observed that requiring affordable housing – funded by the developers – was the "top selling point" in its favor. "A lot of people were against it at first, but were willing to take on density to get affordable hous-

"Once we have a handful of projects completed, it would be good to do another wholesale review of what worked and what didn't." - Brett Denton



Post South Lamar (project rendering, current site of the Stoneridge apartments)

COURTESY OF LOONEY, RICKS, KISS (LRK)

ing," she said. In this sense, VMU responses offer an important bellwether for public acceptance of other "density bonus" programs.

As for the mixed responses to VMU, said Chimenti, "It's been very controversial, but sometimes that's what it takes to engage people." She pointed out that neighborhood input becomes stronger and sounder as more folks attend meetings and get involved. "The VMU process has caused so much division in neighborhoods," she observed. "But if this served to rally folks to form or reactivate neighborhood planning teams, that's a very positive thing. … For the ones that put tons of time into it, it was a good process and worth it."

In the end, observed Chimenti: "It's good to engage and educate more and more people, and I definitely think VMU has done that. Because if nobody's active and paying attention, then the chance to shape our own future goes away." ■

Individual VMU applications are online at: **ftp://coageoid01.ci.austin.tx.us/GIS-Data/planning/CommercialDesign/vmu_applications**.

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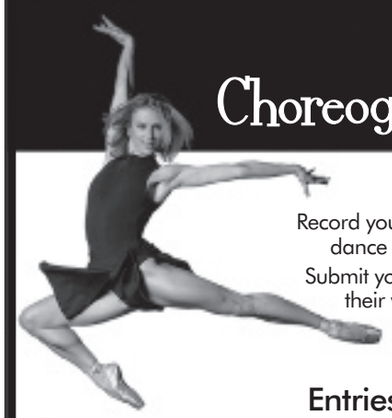
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To Opt, or Not? Zilker Tweaks VMU

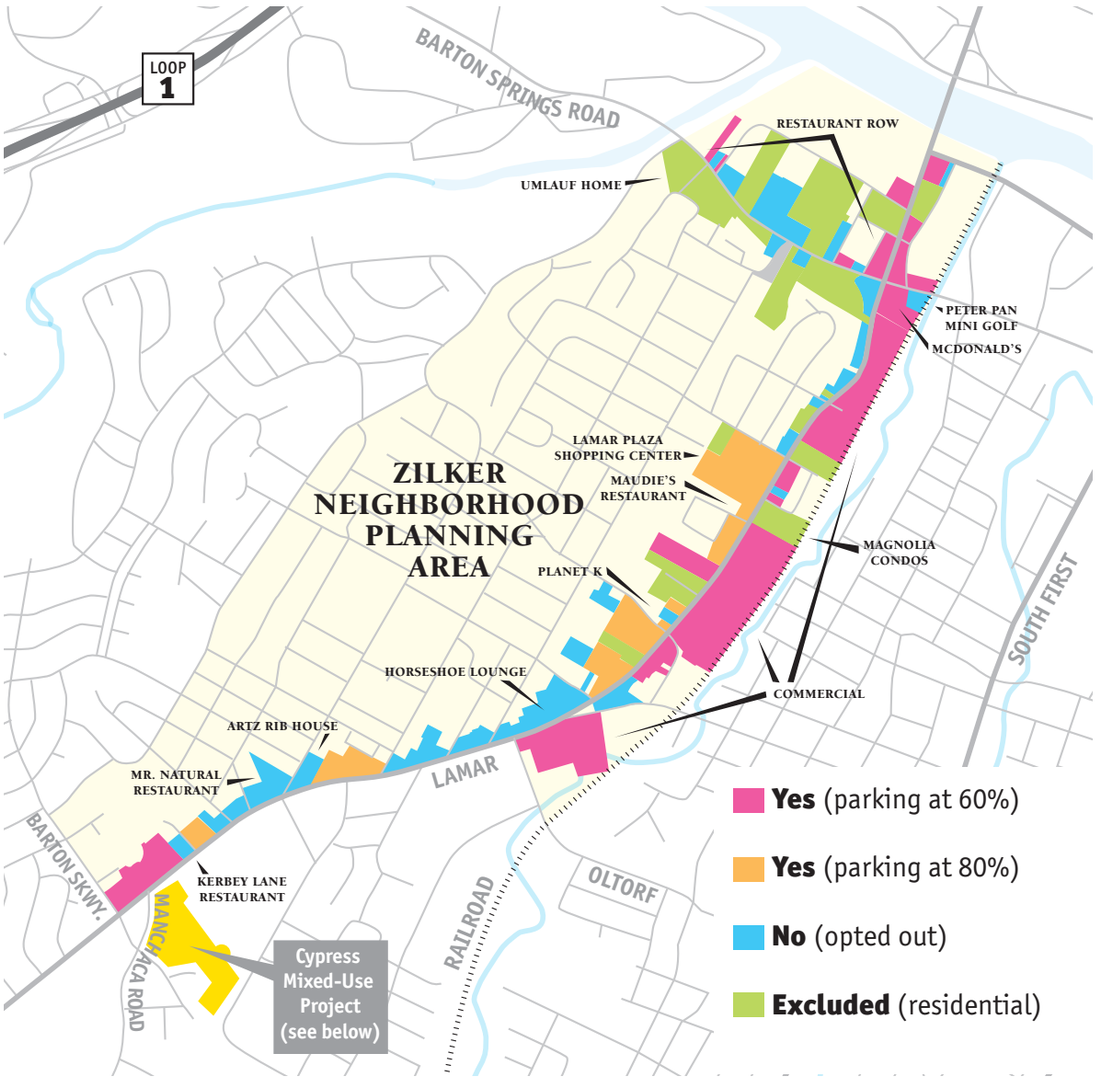
BY KATHERINE GREGOR

The Zilker Neighborhood Association's recommendations on vertical mixed-use provide a window into how one neighborhood-planning team carefully weighed VMU's power to change its neighborhood, for better or worse. "We appreciate the ordinance being structured to allow each neighborhood to tailor the use of VMU as appropriate for our community," observed ZNA President Jeff Jack, a longtime neighborhood activist who is often critical of City Hall. In return, "We hope that council recognizes the willingness of our association to be balanced in our recommendations." In other words, please don't overrule our opt-outs from the dais.

Zilker is of particular interest as an early VMU hotbed. According to George Zapalac of Watershed Protection and Development Review, of the nine VMU projects already filed with the city (most under "early consideration"), four are located on South Lamar – the primary core transit corridor in the Zilker Neighborhood Planning Area. Those projects include Post South Lamar (site of the Stoneridge Apartments) by developer Ardent Residential. Ardent also is co-developing a large (300-apartment) mixed-use (possibly VMU) project around the iconic-and-to-be-untouched Broken Spoke, farther south on Lamar. Other VMU projects planned are Magnolia and Lamar Square Condominiums. Across Lamar at Manchaca (within the South Lamar Neighborhood Planning Area), Cypress Real Estate Advisors have planned a 360-apartment VMU project.

Two Sides, Two Stories

The Zilker Planning Area includes both sides of Lamar from the river south to Oltorf, then continues on, only the west side of Lamar, south to Barton Skyway. It's an ugly strip – visually chaotic, pocked with automotive joints, architecturally void. Meanwhile, the Zilker neighborhood is rapidly gentrifying; small, older homes are scrapped weekly and replaced by huge new ones in the $700,000 range. Many of the new residents (and existing ones) would welcome some handsome, new commercial architecture on Lamar. The smattering of cool restaurants, clubs, and shops (which earned one stretch "IBIZ" banners designating an Independent Business Investment Zone) mostly occupies forgettable structures that relate poorly to the street. Redevelopment could only improve the urban aesthetics here. The other core transit corridor within Zilker Neighborhood Association's area is Barton Springs Road, from Lamar west to Robert E. Lee. That stretch hosts a popular "restaurant row," tree-covered trailer parks, and new condo developments.

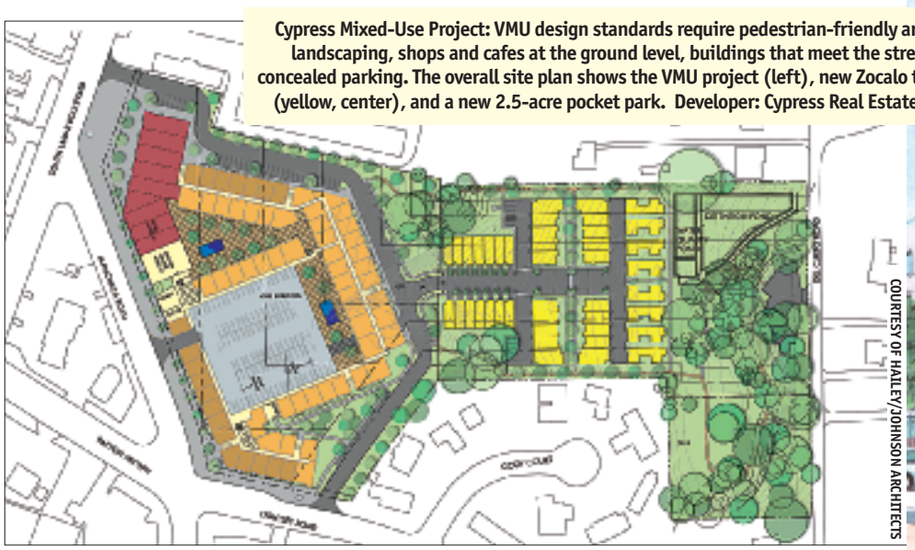


ZILKER PLANNING AREA

Zilker's choice: This set of parcel-by-parcel recommendations illustrates how one neighborhood thoughtfully used the opt in/out process.

Zilker's team chose to opt out (discourage redevelopment) on small properties, those that back directly up to houses, and those with popular local restaurants and amenities. Locals judged the land between South Lamar and the railroad tracks (ZNA's eastern boundary) to be most VMU-appropriate.

Overall, Zilker opted out about 40% of qualifying (commercial) VMU Overlay District properties. By contrast, nearby Bouldin and South River City kept in nearly 100% of their VMU-OD properties.





Cypress Mixed-Use Project: VMU design standards require pedestrian-friendly amenities, landscaping, shops and cafes at the ground level, buildings that meet the street, and concealed parking. The overall site plan shows the VMU project (left), new Zocalo townhomes (yellow, center), and a new 2.5-acre pocket park. Developer: Cypress Real Estate Advisors

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On both streets, the neighborhood association first removed all residential properties within the VMU Overlay (green on map), as VMU applies only to commercial properties. Of the commercial tracts, according to Jack, they selected about 60% as "VMU-appropriate" with full developer incentives (pink on map). On South Lamar, the vast majority of parcels kept in the overlay is sandwiched between the road and the railroad tracks that run parallel to it, on the east. That siting buffers the tracts from single-family homes. The parcels are large enough to benefit from VMU and contain no beloved local businesses.

On the other side of Lamar, it's a different story. ZNA recommends opt-outs (blue on map) for many tracts, particularly those with popular neighborhood restaurants and shops to which residents could walk or bike. Those include Planet K, La Feria, the Horseshoe Lounge, the Birds Barbershop building, Artz Rib House, and Mr. Natural. One concern is that rising land values reflecting increased VMU entitlements could drive up commercial rents for these businesses. Other tracts were left in the VMU Overlay, but the Zilker Neighborhood Association is asking for a parking requirement of 80% of the city norm. (VMU ordinarily provides a 60% reduction.) The largest such tract is the Lamar Plaza Shopping Center, home of the Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar. ZNA wanted more parking required on the west side of Lamar to prevent it from spilling over to surrounding residential streets (as currently occurs every weekend from Alamo patrons).

In addition to the parking concerns, said Jack, the planning team was concerned that "many sites were much too small to benefit from VMU." To accommodate large-scale VMU projects, developers would want to acquire multiple adjoining tracts – which could drive out local small businesses already in place. (In any case, city compatibility standards – which limit project size and scale near single-family homes – would largely nullify the VMU unit-increase incentive.) Jack also cited a concern about commercial creep back onto residential lots. Here the neighborhood took a protectionist stance.

On Barton Springs Road, ZNA wants to remove virtually all parcels from the overlay.

Similarly on Barton Springs Road, ZNA wants to remove virtually all parcels from the overlay. Residents like the mix of residential and restaurants there now, said Jack, and don't want to lose their walking-distance eateries – Chuy's, Shady Grove, Flipnotics, Romeo's, Green Mesquite. (Locally owned character clearly counts toward neighborhood value; flung on the VMU chopping block were McDonald's, Jack in the Box, and Taco Cabana.) The family-friendly Peter Pan Mini Golf also was opted out.

Jack said that, unlike some other neighborhoods, ZNA chose not to "opt-in" any tracts not already in the VMU Overlay. (Some have opted-in parcels on all four sides of a major intersection, for example, to create more of a VMU "node.") That level of VMU-love was reserved as a future bargaining chip. If council fully supports the neighborhood's VMU recommendations now, said Jack, and the first projects prove an asset to the neighborhood, ZNA might look more kindly on such opt-ins in the future.

Affordability Issues

An overarching change recommended to council by the Zilker team relates to the affordable housing that VMU developers are required to provide (10% of total units). Zilker wants its affordability level lowered from 80% of median family income (standard for VMU) to 60% MFI. Jack said 80% MFI already corresponds to the market rate for apartments nearby, so ZNA desires deeper affordability. At Post South Lamar, the city is "buying down" the apartments 30% further, to 50% MFI, with affordable-housing funds.

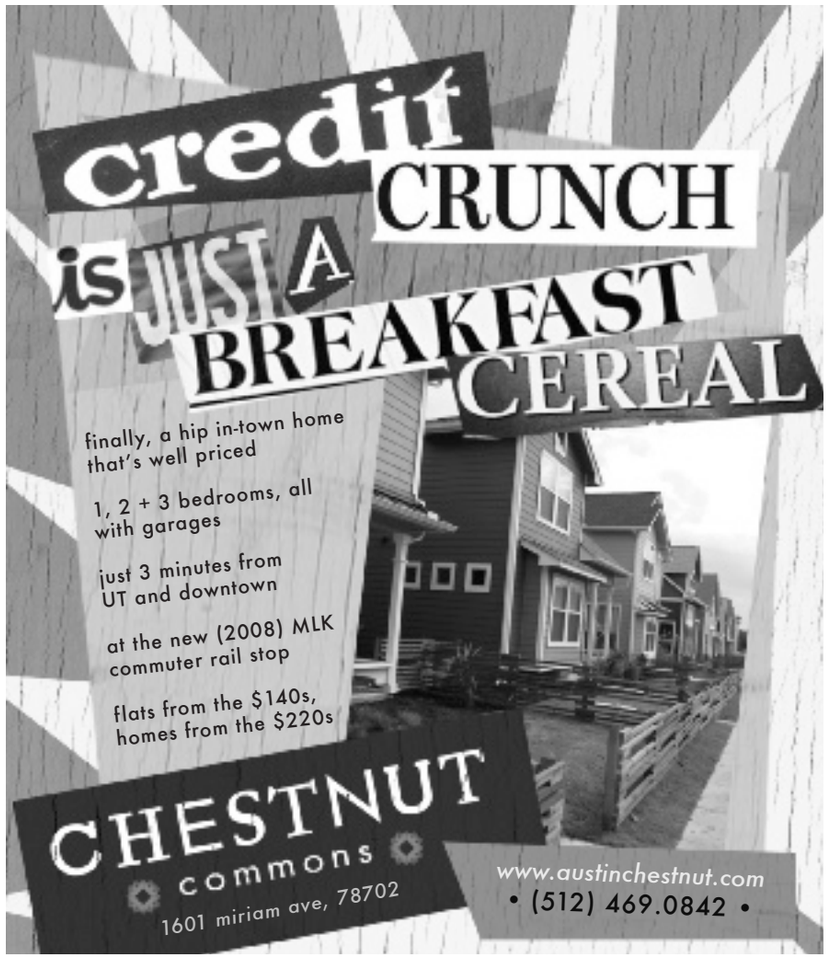
Developers warn that altering VMU so that they alone must fund affordability at less than 80% MFI can make projects unfeasible – so the 60% MFI level recommended by Zilker could be unwise. If the numbers don't work, developers will simply decline to file under VMU and instead build their mixed-use project under other commercial zoning, without any affordable units. "At 80 percent MFI, developers can absorb the costs of capping rents," says Ardent Residential's Brett Denton. "You get below that, and the investors in these projects aren't getting the return they're looking for. If there's a lower return due to affordable housing, projects aren't going to find investors, and they aren't going to get built."

With regard to city-funded buy-downs for deeper affordability, Denton also noted an inflationary flaw. On the Ardent-Post South Lamar project, the developer agreed to a $1.1 million city contribution to offset the locked-in lower rents on the 50% MFI affordable units. But a year later, actual construction bids have come in much higher than projected. Based on real costs, Ardent would have negotiated a city contribution of at least $1.7 million, said Denton.

While that shortfall might sound like a break for citizens, VMU will not be effective if developers don't voluntarily elect to use it. "If there's not some form of 'true-up' mechanism, to base the final agreement on actual costs after the project gets bid by the general contractor, it's a difficult model to make work going forward," said Denton. If that mechanism isn't added, he warned, "developers will greatly inflate their numbers, to protect their downside."

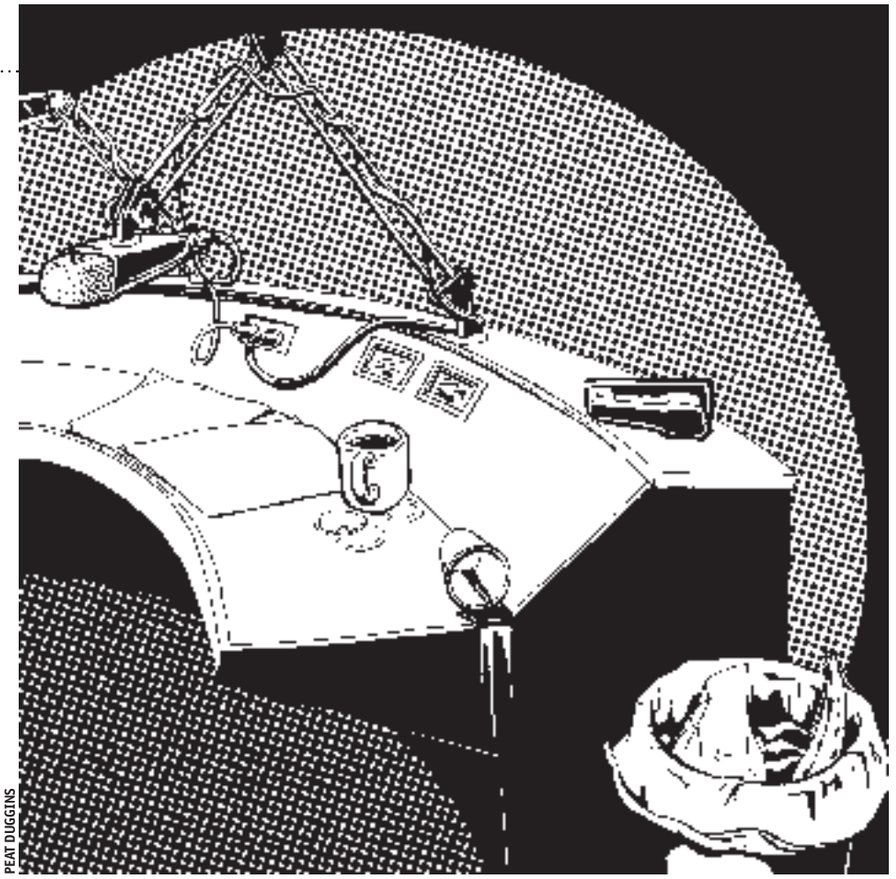
At the already approved Cypress project, the affordable-rate apartments will rent at the standard 80% MFI level. Rather than deepening affordability, the developer provided other community benefits – including financial assistance to Habibi's Hutch, a locally owned day care displaced by the project. The developer also donated land for a new city pocket park. Parkland bond funds bought another parcel, to result in a new 2.5-acre neighborhood park – a direct result of the VMU project. ■

Note: Katherine Gregor resides in the Zilker neighborhood but had no involvement in its VMU process.





Walking Nervous Breakdown



PEAT DUGGINS

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

The thing about doing radio is that you can't stop and think. That's what they call "dead air." Radio artists of old – Jean Shepherd, Fred Allen – knew how to pause and let a moment hover, but you don't ever *stop*. I had stopped. I was being interviewed in a dingy Pacifica station in Studio City. Dingy is dingy, I don't mind it, but suddenly that day (some years ago) I minded a lot. I noticed the little broadcast booth was dark, and there were coffee stains on the table by the mics, and the carpet was worn almost through, and it was dirty, there was stuff around – *stuff*, scraps of this and that … a used paper cup by the trash basket (someone missed the throw?), a stapler on its side on the table (why hadn't anyone put it right, how long had it been like that, an hour, all day, days?). A man was interviewing me, and I'd been talking. Can't remember about what. And I heard Lady Brett, in *The Sun Also Rises*, say clear as a bell, "Don't talk rot, Jake." And I stopped. The interviewer was quick, he filled in, continued my thought, asked another question. I began talking again, apparently making sense – anyway, he seemed interested. I had no interest at all, wasn't even listening, just talking. What I was really doing was watching.

The person I was watching was me, and that me was huddled by the trash basket, shaking, trembling, trying to crawl into himself, weeping, wanting it all to stop, just stop, just everything stop. That me was trying to say the word "help" – a word I'm not very good at, in fact I'm lousy at it, and now I was hearing Anthony Quinn in *Lust for Life*: He's Gauguin (my favorite painter) and he's telling Kirk Douglas' Van Gogh (my mother's favorite painter), "To say, 'I love you,' would break all my teeth." To say "help" would have broken my teeth. But, oh, that me on the floor was losing it royally, trying with all his might to say "help" and at the same time trying not to. *Me*-me, the guy sitting at the microphone, was still apparently making sense. The broadcast was being taped, I heard it later when it aired: sounded OK, not my best but OK – level voice, decent diction, complete sentences about something or other. No hint that by the end of the interview I'd sweated through my shirt and my hands were trembling ever so slightly and I'd lit a cigarette even though I wasn't supposed to and the interviewer didn't seem to notice. I think I lit a cigarette, that's what I remember, but who knows? At the time I wasn't paying attention to the me that was talking and doing stuff. All my attention was fixed on the me that mattered, the me trying to crawl into or out of his skin by the trash basket and struggling mightily not to say "help." He wanted so much to say it and he knew he could not, must not.

The cliché is that if you really need help you ought to ask for it – and that's usually true, especially for the young. But best be careful whom you ask. If your consciousness has sort of left your body and all you want to do is huddle in the corner of a radio studio among strangers and cry, "Help!" – well, folks would like to help, they really would, but they don't know you and they don't know how and there's the insurance to think of, so it's, "Call 911!" – and then you're fucked. People come to take you. They don't mean you harm; they're trying to stop you from hurting yourself; they're trying to take you where you can get what they think is help. I know the drill. I'd seen them take people I loved, and take them fairly often, take them to places where caregivers did the best they could, kept them safe (after a fashion), but in those places there is no help. Better than the street. Better than driving your family crazier than it already is. Better than letting you go totally out of control. But no help. Just time. Until one day you're ready to leave, but there's always a little less of you than when you went in. Sometimes you can get back what's lost; sometimes you can't. I saw it happen to people whom I loved with my very bones, and it wasn't going to happen to me.

They wouldn't want that. They wouldn't want what happened to them to happen to me. Some alloy of their pride and mine got me through that hour. Somehow, I got myself home – which, at the time, was a dingy apartment in North Hollywood, a dinginess of my own, where I played my upright piano (and didn't answer the phone) for two days. Not that I can really play, but it sounds OK to me when I'm alone.

That day was the worst of it, not because it was the scariest (it wasn't), but because it was the day I really, finally, almost gave up. For even when I was suicidal I didn't feel like I was giving up, I felt like I wanted to do something and end the nonsense; in that radio booth, more terribly, I wanted not to be me. That's very different. I'd been having a walking nervous breakdown for about four years and it went on for about another four, but that was when my breakdown – a very long walk indeed – almost turned into the other, locked-up, medicated kind of breakdown. Which, for one hour in a broadcast booth, I really, really wanted. I wanted not to be free. I wanted to beg not to be free. In that context, in that radio booth, that's what "help" meant.

It's not like I hadn't asked for genuine help, through the usual channels. I was constantly in therapy, and that helped me understand a great deal, understandings I'm thankful for – but the understandings didn't really help. My friends helped with their love (sometimes of the "tough" variety), their insight, their fun. The women I loved tried to help, but in those days I couldn't accept their help. (Fucked up, I know.) *And* this shit had been going on in spasms, a month or so at a time, all my life – especially all my professional life. (Took me many years, many essays, several books, and a couple of produced screenplays to realize I was deep down frightened of being a writer! Once I realized it, I could live with it, and now I'm fine with it – though that fear never quite goes away.) But analyzing my walking breakdown is not the point tonight.

The point is that this happens to many, and it hasn't got a name. I call it a walking nervous breakdown. You can function, sometimes function really well at this and that. You can get through the day and through the night – often being a pain in the ass as you do so, but you can do so. You can even have fun. There's no

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time in my life when I haven't had fun, one way or another. You're not depressed (except sometimes), you're not in despair (except now and then), you may fall into bleak moods for weeks on end (but you come out of them). Now and again (for me it was often) you "act out," as they say. For me, acting out was, oh, a more than usually destructive affair, a terribly embarrassing drunken binge, or (still my favorite) getting into some sort of dangerous fix and having to finesse or luck my way out … though I was never in so much danger as in that radio booth.

Every temperament has its own style. Some folks just get progressively more dull, and no loved one guesses (because they don't want to) that what's behind that dullness is a pretty interesting din of turmoil. Some folks get more or less, well, not there – they speak as they've spoken (just as smartly!), work as they've worked (just as efficiently!), fuck as they've fucked (not quite the best anymore), do what they've done, but they're not quite there and sooner or later that gets noticed, and usually it's decided that it's no big deal. At which point such folks lose the battle and the light goes out. (Horrible, when your agony is not even noticed.) Some years later those folks die and at the funeral people say vaguely pleasant, vaguely troubled clichés, under which is the question "What *happened*?" Some folks get gaudy, do stuff utterly "unlike" them, create messy dramas, or they quit their jobs, or they decide to have a baby … something.

Most folks just hang on. Like I did. Best they can. They don't know what's happening except that it's all wrong. Their lives are not their lives. Not really. And that knowledge tears them quietly apart. You can hear it if you like – go to a quiet place and slowly tear a page of paper in half. That's what it sounds like inside, and it goes on for years. For some folks it never ends, they just hang on until hanging on becomes their definition of life. Walking nervous breakdowns. Multitudes of walking nervous breakdowns. Happens all the time, to all kinds of people. It's so "normal" it's barely noticed.

And some folks get through it, as I did some time back. If you're fortunate enough to get through your walking nervous breakdown to a life that is honestly yours, you slowly come to realize that there's no one to blame and no one who can live your life for you. You live it for yourself – as a wise friend says, "You take it a step at a time and watch what you step in" – and you're thankful for every moment, thinking that maybe all wisdom comes back to what the gypsies say:

Sometimes you get the bear, sometimes the bear gets you. ■

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the arts

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Glynda Cox
In memoriam

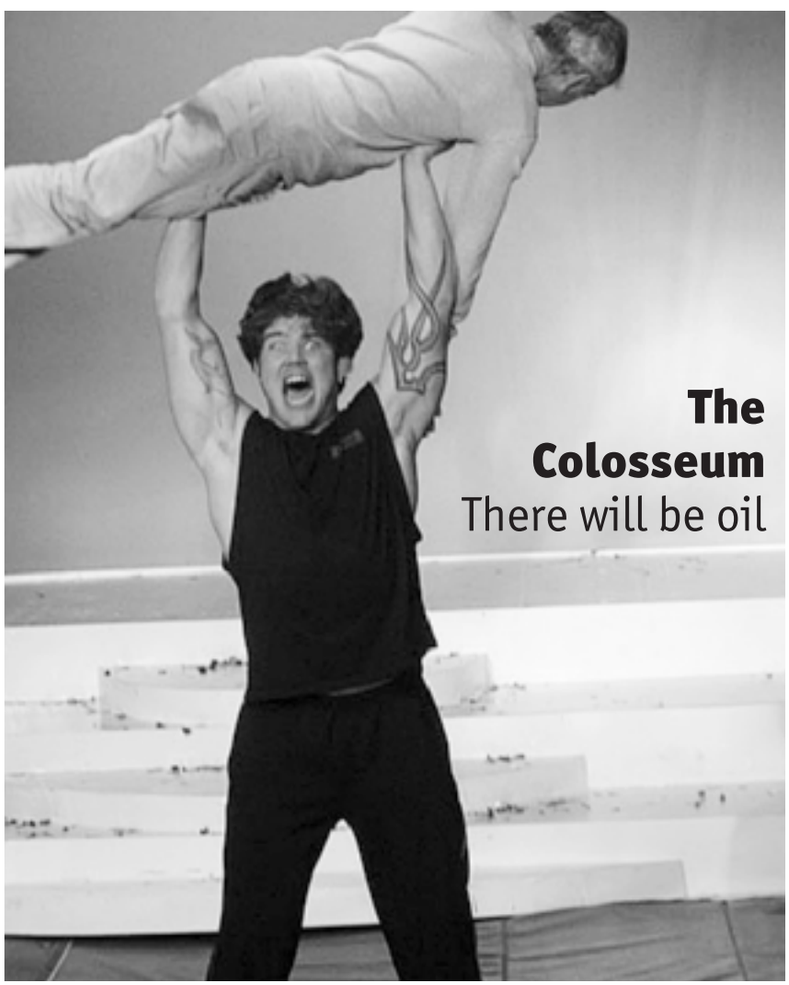
One of the greatest moms of the Austin arts scene has died. Glynda Cox, who for nine years ran the beloved Downtown performance venue Chicago House with her partner, Peg Miller, passed away in her sleep on Sunday, Jan. 20. She was 64. Tragically, her death came one day after the passing of her father, G.B. "Pete" Martin, in New Braunfels. It was at Chicago House that many a fledgling playwright, poet, singer-songwriter, storyteller, and theatre company took a leap out of the nest, and no matter how clumsy a flight it may have been, Glynda was always there with an encouraging word or a smile or a hug to make you feel better about it. You may not have been her kid, but she was so supportive and nurturing that whenever you were around her, you felt like you were. Cox had other jobs – she followed her dad into work for Southwestern Bell and broke through the gender line in a couple of male-only jobs – but it was Austin's arts scene where she made even more of an impact. She came to Austin having been a student of the great theatre educator Ruth Denney alongside Paula Prentiss and Robert Foxworth at Lamar High School in Houston. In the Seventies, she served as house manager for Center Stage, and director Jimmy Costello's stagings of musicals by Sondheim and a way-out-of-town tryout for the Stephen Schwartz-Joseph Stein musical *The Baker's Wife*, with the late Joe York and recent Tony Award winner Julie White, made a deep impression on her. In 1984, Cox became a partner in Chameleon's Coffee House in an old building on Trinity between Sixth and Seventh. After a few years, two of the partners decided to take the establishment to Brodie Oaks, but Cox and Miller were able to hold on to the lease and, in the summer of 1987, opened Chicago House. The venue quickly became a home for low-budget theatrical productions and open mics, and an astounding roster of artists passed through its doors by the time it closed in 1996: Alejandro Escovedo, Tish Hinojosa, Jo Carol Pierce, Jimmy LaFave, Sharon Bridgforth, Karen Kuykendall and Sterling Price-McKinney, David Rodriguez, Steven Tomlinson, Slaid Cleaves, Betty Elders, Will T. Massey, C.K. McFarland, Marco Perella, Heloise Gold … the list goes on. In 1991, Miller and Cox were jointly named Woman of the Year by *Music City Texas*, and in 1994, they received the Austin Circle of Theaters' Special Recognition Award for Outstanding Contributions to Austin Theatre. Cox is survived by her son, Jim L.H. Cox, and his wife, Lena; daughter Cassandra Sparkman, husband Mark, and grandsons Nicholas and Alexander; brother Gordon Martin and wife Nancy; sister Micaela Zoeller and husband Danny; granddaughter Amber Dupont and great-grandson Elijah; her partner, Peg Miller; and friends too numerous to count. A celebration of Cox's life, hosted by Betty Elders and Will T. Massey, will be held Sunday, Feb. 10, 4-8pm, at Jovita's, 1619 S. First. All are welcome. – *Robert Faires*



David Mamet
Textual perversity from Chicago

When the Harry Ransom Center acquired the papers of dramatist, screenwriter, director, teacher, and essayist David Mamet last year, one of the sweetest parts of the deal was Mamet's agreement to participate in a series of short residencies at the University of Texas over the next few years. The idea is for him to come to Austin for a couple of days each time and give a lecture, present a reading, work with students on a stage production – whatever the school and center felt would be useful. This week, Mamet is making the first of those visits, and one thing the Ransom Center has asked him to do is take part in a public conversation about his work and career. So, on Monday, Feb. 4, at 6:30pm, this remarkable man of letters will take the stage in Hogg Auditorium to discuss works from *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *American Buffalo* to *House of Games* and *State and Main*; his new play on Broadway, the political comedy *November*; his new film, *Redbelt*; his current television series, *The Unit*; his days in Chicago; his feelings about Hollywood; and maybe even the state of the union. You'll also have to listen to this writer toss the questions at him, but I promise to keep my comments to a minimum.

The event is free, but tickets are required, and at press time the Ransom Center had distributed all the tickets it had. However, a standby line will be started at 5:30pm on Monday in case all the seats are not filled. For more information, visit **www.hrc.utexas.edu**. – *R.F.*



The Colosseum
There will be oil

All right, I admit it: As a teen, I watched wrestling. Ivan Putski, Mr. Fuji, Chief Jay Strongbow in his headdress doing his rain dance around the ring. I watched it all and, in my naivete, believed that the Chief was a Native American. (Actually, he was Italian.) As an adult, I once watched two somewhat scantily clad women wrestling in oil and have to admit I found it at least as stimulating, if not more so, than watching Andre the Giant throw people around the ring.

That's why *The Colosseum*, an all-male wrestling show that will be produced at Arts on Real, holds more than a passing interest for me. Originally staged in California by Darkhorse Entertainment and featured on HBO's *Real Sex*, the version in Austin is being directed – and reimagined – by Blake Yelavich, Arts on Real's producing artistic director. "It was a show that was sent to me," says Yelavich. "The promotional videotape was kind of scary. It was done in the corner of what looks to me like a bar. And while I didn't rewrite the basic content, I did fill in some narrative holes and dialogue. Basically, I restaged it for the feel of a bigger production – tightened it up yet fleshed it out. You meet all of the wrestlers at the very beginning, then the announcer, then the judges. Then the wrestlers wrestle in historically accurate wrestling gear – which is oftentimes next to nothing."

And do they ever wrestle. Over the course of close to a half-dozen matches, six wrestlers, including a California-surfer type, a redneck, and a very big drag queen, compete to face the champion, Zeus, for the title. Says Yelavich, "This show is *Pageant* [Arts on Real's popular drag beauty contest] all over again: six stereotypes working their way up the pyramid, with the audience voting to determine who vies for the championship."

Since he didn't know much about wrestling, Yelavich recruited Houston-based Rip Clark, a sometime wrestler, underwear model, and expert in martial arts, both to choreograph the show and to star as Zeus. "I met Blake through some friends," says Clark, "and we were talking, and he saw the shape I have. I'm not a big, giant steroid guy; I weigh 175, but I'm really, really cut. He told me about the vision he had for this play, and he showed me the script, and I thought, 'Oh my God; I have to do this.' Blake's a genius. I'd seen the one on HBO, and it was just something crazy and racy, but the Arts on Real show is awesome. It's basically the history of wrestling, from Roman gladiator days to modern times." And as to the oil wrestling, Clark says, "It's mandatory."

According to Yelavich, they've presold more tickets for this extravaganza than for any show in Arts on Real's history, and that's saying a lot, given that the theatre has hosted perennially popular productions like *Pageant*. So if you're at all interested in seeing seminaked, well-greased men going toe-to-toe without much restraint – and if you're over the age of 21 – I suggest you throw your hat in this well-worn ring very soon. – *Barry Pineo*

The Colosseum *runs Feb. 1-16, Friday, 9pm; Saturday, 8 & 10:30pm, at Arts on Real, 2826 Real. For more information, call 472-2787 or visit* **www.artsonreal.com**.

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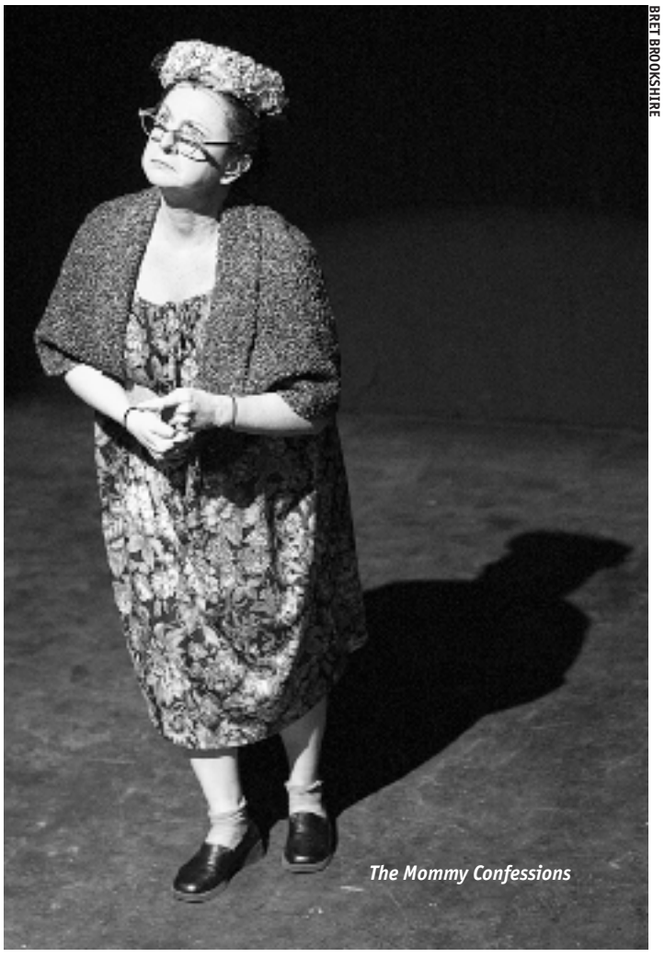
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BRET BROOKSHIRE

The Mommy Confessions


BRET BROOKSHIRE

Sad, Sad, Sad: Parts 1 & 2

About This Long

Measuring the creativity of the 2008 FronteraFest Long Fringe

When it comes to the FronteraFest Long Fringe, just how long *is* long? By that, we don't mean the length of the shows in minutes; we know that every work in this section of the annual performance festival has a running time between an hour and an hour and a half. No, we're talking about a measure of artistic creativity, theatrical ingenuity, or maybe just plain daring. What lengths are the artists who have mounted shows this year willing to go to excite, enthrall, or entertain its audiences, particularly given that this festival thrives on the unexpected and creative risk-taking. Last week, the *Chronicle* Arts team hit the first week of the 2008 Long Fringe to let you know how 11 of the 12 shows measure up. Dates and times for the remaining performances of each production follow the reviews. Except for *Shoeless*, which is performed at the Hideout, 617 Congress, all shows are performed at the Blue Theater, 916 Springdale. Ticket prices vary. For reservations, call 479-PLAY. For the full schedule and more information, visit **www.hydeparktheatre.org**. *– Robert Faires*

'Sad, Sad, Sad: Parts 1 & 2'

In the second part of this two-part play, God is a blonde in a white pantsuit and spiky, white pumps who sleeps with her head on a desk, piles of paper and blond hair spilling forth, for the whole play. For two guys who just arrived in purgatory, this God is a sight for sore eyes. Unfortunately, to get a second chance at their misspent lives, they have to kill her. But then, in a move that smacks of *Groundhog Day*, a third assassin enters to confess that for years he has been trapped in a cycle of killing God again and again – that's his fate for eternity. The conversation among God's would-be assassins zips between clever remarks and big stuff like truth and existence, so it feels like deeper questions are bubbling beneath the play's surface, but it's hard to say exactly what they are. But if you feel like you're missing something, be grateful that after the play's over, you can return to life without having to kill anybody.

Part one of *Sad, Sad, Sad* didn't hold my attention as much. I think it was the continuous pitch of angst and shouting throughout that fatigued me. I can see why four guys working on a mystery bomb project in a military research facility in Nevada might want to yell. They are burdened with the weight of their secret plot, which, it turns out, will kill all in utero babies in the world. But do they have to yell so much? *– Clayton Maxwell*

Thursday, Jan. 31, 7pm; Saturday, Feb. 2, 10:15pm.

'Shoeless or the Advantages of Not Knowing Exactly Where You Are Going'

The new Fox reality show *The Moment of Truth* gives contestants the chance to win a fortune by answering tough personal questions while hooked up to a lie detector. Now take the premise of *The Moment of Truth* and inject some creativity, humor, risk, and existential angst, and you've got *Who Am I?*, the game show at the heart of *Shoeless*. (Truth is stranger than fiction, pah!)

Shoeless is Bree Perlman and director D.S. Moss' adaptation of the Donald Barthelme short story "Shower of Gold." Barthelme was known for his experimental style and ironic or absurd plots, and his fans will be pleased to know that *Shoeless* strives to re-create his unique world. The play follows sculptor Karl Peterson and his fellow contestants as they answer difficult, revealing questions. If they answer falsely, they are forced to watch cryptically surreal scenes of their past. After watching, they're given the chance to reconsider their answers. As the show goes on, the questions become increasingly existential in nature.

This is the only Long Fringe show being performed at the Hideout, and Moss' direction really takes advantage of the space. With its audience participation, dark humor, and intriguing premise, *Shoeless* is sure to be one of the hits of this year's FronteraFest. *– Avimaan Syam*

Thursday, Jan. 31, 8pm; Friday, Feb. 1, 8pm; Saturday, Feb. 2, 8pm.

'You're Happier Than You Think: Recalibrating Your Emotional Scale'

If you feel like having a laugh at the expense of Club Med, then *You're Happier Than You Think: Recalibrating Your Emotional Scale* is a good bet. Lecturer Bradley is hosting a happiness seminar aboard a cruise ship, with the help of his noticeably unhappy family. The captain's drunk, pirates are nearby, and there's the looming threat of shuffleboard throughout.

It's a screwball comedy without much direction, in any sense of the word. The cast stumbles and shuffles without any confidence in where they're supposed to be standing. The script sails here and there without much in the way of navigation. Nobody's steering the cruise ship, either.

You're Happier Than You Think shows a family attempting to be happy in spite of their ridiculous dysfunction, and that's fairly heartwarming. However, when a character asks, "What is the reason you're telling us?" and gets no answer, that's a good sign that it's time to put into harbor. *– Elizabeth Cobbe*

Thursday, Jan. 31, 9:15pm; Saturday, Feb. 2, 6:15pm; Sunday, Feb. 3, noon.

'I Google Myself'

I Google Myself is about violent gay porn.

Some will say that's not true, that it tells a dark story about three manipulative, secretive men while shedding light on unseen corners of the human condition. But mostly, it's about a stalker who loves violent gay porn.

At the start, a nervous, nerdy guy in a polo shirt attempts to interview a porn star for a newspaper story. The two just so happen to share the same name, although it's just a screen name for the porn star. The reporter claims he Googled himself and discovered 37 references to a porn star ahead of himself. He thought it would make a good story.

Turns out, the porn star stole his screen name from the bully who ruined his life in junior high. And the newspaper writer isn't a newspaper writer. The hunt begins, and let's just say that if you keep a blog now, you will think twice after seeing Jason Schafer's *I Google Myself*.

"Names connect people," asserts the geek in the polo. So do crazy, malicious stalkers. *– E.C.*

Friday, Feb. 1, 7pm.

continued on p.38

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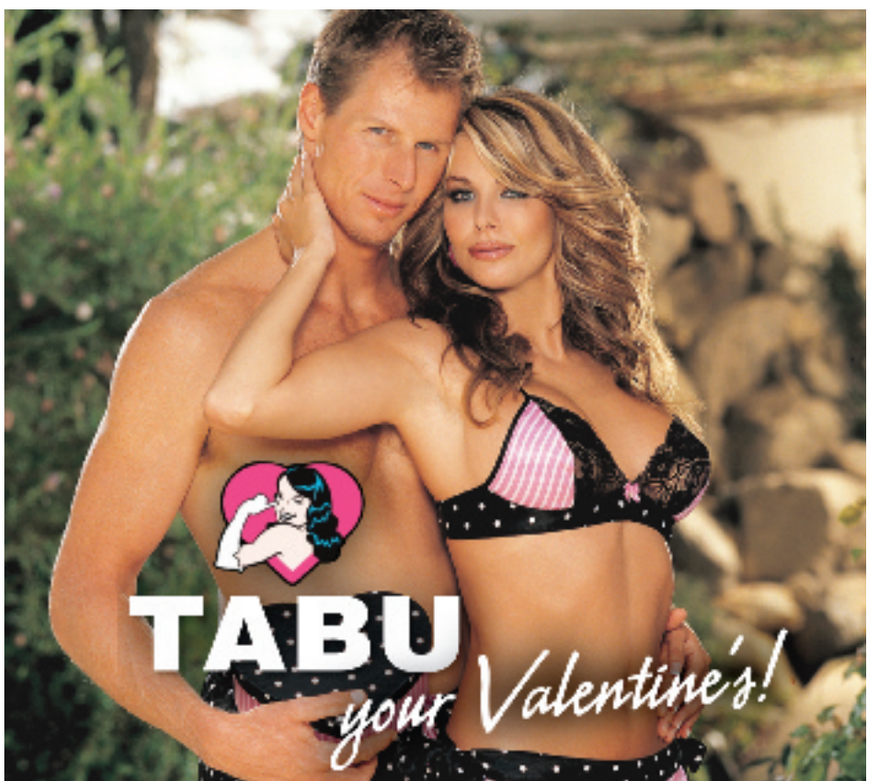
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'The Mommy Confessions'

"Eric Beal, you get your hands out of your pants right this minute. You're just like your daddy. Good grief … Memaw loves you, too, you little shit." With this opening rant, the cantankerous Memaw, played by Rhonda Kulhanek, lets us know what's in store: *The Mommy Confessions* is a gutsy look at motherhood that may not be pretty, but it's sure to be funny.

As the sole writer and performer, Kulhanek is a one-woman cyclone. Playing 12 different women – from jilted wife to pregnant girl armed with Easy Cheese – she changes roles and wardrobe with more ease than Cher. This ease comes in part from familiarity; she has been performing versions of *The Mommy Confessions* in the FronteraFest Short Fringe for several years now. The benefits of this are clear: Kulhanek embodies her characters as if they are dear old friends. They are as real as the pantyhose sagging at Memaw's ankles.

There is a sweet relief in Kulhanek's freedom to make fun while shouting out the hard truths that many mothers face. Her characters' complaints may not be yours, but certainly you've heard them before. Not unlike a session of Mommy's Anonymous, Kulhanek's willingness "to say anything, anything at all" as a mom gives us the relief of honesty amid many good laughs. – *C.M.*

Friday, Feb. 1, 9:15pm; Saturday, Feb. 2, 8pm.

BRET BROOKSHIRE



Jack and the King

'Jack and the King'

That fella in the White House ain't the first Georgieboy to struggle with getting his own way. Austin Alexander's *Jack and the King* is a political satire, with Shakespearean undertones, which follows the tribulations of King George II after he gets shipwrecked.

Jack, an islander, plays the straight man to the blustery king after he washes ashore. King George can't fathom a place where his divine rule isn't immediately acknowledged, where there's no real government, and, worst of all, there's no pig flesh to eat, while Jack can't fathom living under such a moronic tyrant again. As more characters arrive on Jack's once peaceful island, they bring more and more issues regarding King George's reign.

Jack and the King does have its fair share of exposition about the problems and potential of governmental rule, but at least it's aware of it: One servant climbs on an actual soapbox to deliver his speech, discussions are broken up with sword fights replete with *Street Fighter II*-style audiences, and there are more than a few coconut-rum drinks to go around. *King* never lets its political motives get in the way of a good story or a good joke, and in the end it plays out just like a Shakespearean comedy should. – *A.S.*

Friday, Feb. 1, 11:30pm; Sunday, Feb. 3, 7:45pm.

'Paper Weight'

Born out of a University of Texas graduate course analyzing autobiography, *Paper Weight* is an exploration of iconic women artists of the 20th century. *Weight*'s four monologues explore the sacrifices and triumphs of these figures while incorporating autobiographical elements of the performers, as well.

We're first introduced to Zelda Fitzgerald, who at 46 finds she can't live life as a fairy tale anymore. Fitzgerald, played by Elisabeth Sharp McKetta, is confined to a room in a mental hospital, where she has little to do save amass her flock of paper cranes. We only hear Fitzgerald's side of a conversation with a doctor, and despite her fertile imagination and publicized past, it's depressingly clear that Fitzgerald has no one to tell stories to save her psychiatrist.

Kristin Leahey's piece on Margaret Bourke-White, a prominent photojournalist, focuses on the memories and vignettes that made Bourke-White known as "Maggie the Indestructible." Leahey's piece is more abstract, shuffling among themes, stories, and phrases, and the inclusion of her own autobiographical bits does enhance the effect of Bourke-White's tale.

Priscilla Sample plays both character-in-role, as well as historian in her piece on Margo Jones. Sample, whose Short Fringe script was voted into the first Best of Week showcase, admits straightaway that acting isn't her forte, but her more conversational style doesn't prevent her piece from being any less interesting or educational.

Missing due to illness was Meg Sullivan, who was to perform Virginia Woolf. Presumably she'll be well enough for their next show. – *A.S.*

Saturday, Feb. 2, noon.

'Dance Carousel' 2008

If you have only 60 seconds to make a dance, you might as well have some fun with it. That looks to have been the thinking of most of the 10 choreographers in this year's edition of *Dance Carousel*, a Long Fringe staple in its fifth year. Each dance maker gets four shots at a minutelong piece, with many developing a single idea or story over the four installments, as Nancy Bain does with a series describing a woman moving from a beach into deeper and deeper waters. Whimsy has never been in short supply in *Dance Carousel*, but this year's version feels more playful than most. *Carousel* creator Ellen Bartel leads the way with a work pairing four dancers with life-sized blow-up dolls. (After watching these inflatables float suggestively to David Bowie's "Space Oddity," I'll never be able to hear that song the same way again.) Caroline Sutton Clark's piece fulfills the fantasy of many a performer by confronting, and ultimately turning the tables on, an audience member using a cell phone. Ellen Stader's broadly comic "Conquest" has its heroine get the best of a Latin lothario, but even more fun are her pair of funk-fueled dances (including a *serious* flashback to the Bicentennial). Add in Myia Little and Nikki Johnson in tutus channeling their inner children playing ballerinas; Amanda Oakley and Randi Turkin doing a slow, sensuous grind to the Coasters' "Down in Mexico"; and nine dancers wiggling their backsides in Annie Hudson's "Bottoms Up," and you're in one delightful playground for movement. – *R.F.*

Saturday, Feb. 2, 2:15pm.

'Luna Tart Died (of a Broken Heart)'

A failed actress and cabaret entertainer, Luna Tart, as played by Laura Freeman, has descended to the depths of bag-ladydom. After a funny introduction by Lovey & Lovey, two tippling Brits (Michael Jastroch and Tami Nelson of ColdTowne Theater), the aptly named Tart enters pushing a red shopping cart filled, most noticeably, with two apparently identical ukuleles. She's been around the block – in more ways than one. Mostly, she sings original songs while strumming her ukes, but she also tells us about her past lives as an actress and singer and, especially, about all the men she's had. One of the most entertaining songs she assays is, in fact, about how much she likes to spend Johnny's money.

I wish all the songs had been like that one. While Freeman writes clever lyrics and has a great voice – whenever she sings tremolo, you want to fall at her feet and worship her – too many of the tunes had a slow, lilting tempo that tended to enervate. In addition, the "book" by Freeman and director Rudy Ramirez was so disjointed and rambling as to be almost nonsensical. But while I didn't have a great time, I was in the vast minority, as all but three in the packed house stood and cheered at the end. – *Barry Pineo*

Saturday, Feb. 2, 4:15pm.

'Prepare for Arrival and Cross Check'

Prepare for Arrival and Cross Check shows you everything you ever wanted to know about the lives of flight attendants, as well as plenty of stuff you didn't. Compiled from interviews with actual flight attendants (don't say "stewardess"), the show describes the ups and downs of working for a major airliner. So to speak.

Basically, planes are squalid, the schedule stinks, but the people who stick with it love the profession. They have some great stories. *Prepare for Arrival* makes the curious choice to add a few song-and-dance numbers. The songs are simplistic and sporadic, and the choreography is stifled, given that half the cast is wearing pencil skirts.

It's automatic now that any show about flight attendants will address September 11. Steve Barney's production plays a recording of flight attendant Betty Ann Ong's report to flight control from Flight 11 after the hijacking had begun. Remarkably, there is little to no panic in her voice. Those moments say as much about flight attendants as the rest of the show together. – *E.C.*

Sunday, Feb. 3, 1:45pm.

'Lost/Found'

Lost/Found is the debut performance of Surface Tension Dance Group, described as "a collaborative company of dancers with musicians and visual artists." An interesting proposal, but, unfortunately, this production is underwhelming. The main problem is that there is very little material. The production comprises seven dances that are each about three minutes long. There was too much dead time between pieces and an unnecessary intermission. The choreography was rarely dynamic. The original music employed ocean sounds and felt repetitive. The "visual art" element was projected video footage of the dancers rehearsing. It was lovely footage but did not add depth to the performance. There was an interesting stab at employing text. The fifth dance was underscored not with music but with spoken phrases such as "Where is my sanity?" and "I used to have an edge." These ideas were then resolved in the seventh and final dance. A good idea for structure, but the acting was hesitant, and the themes of losing and finding felt forced. Hopefully, Surface Tension Dance Group will come to its next performance with a more substantial and dynamic bulk of work. – *Hannah Kenah*

Sunday, Feb. 3, 5:45pm.

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BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN: A NOVEL

by Charles Bock
Random House, 432 pp., $25

The decline of the great American experiment is written in the neon lights and decaying storefronts of Las Vegas in Charles Bock's remarkable debut novel. Drawing on his experiences growing up the son of pawnbrokers in that money-mad city, Brock paints a frantic, black-comic portrait of life on the fringes of the American economy, where busted dreams, sexual desperation, cultural vacancy, and familial disconnection conspire to suck all the life out of human beings and pound them into isolated slabs of sour memory and disillusionment.



At the center of Bock's story resides Newell Ewing, a 12-year-old boy looking for adventure outside the confines of his suburban upbringing. His disappearance one night sets off a sequence of events that threatens to ruin the lives of a whole ecosystem of seemingly unrelated characters. There are Newell's parents, Lorraine and Lincoln, whose already troubled marriage threatens to collapse under the strain; Kenny, a disenchanted loner with artistic/pornographic aspirations; Bing Beiderbixxe, a barely successful comic-book artist who spends his time in strip clubs and Internet chat rooms; and stripper Cheri Blossom, who reimagines her past through the lens of a movie camera as a way to mythologize her wasted present. And then there's a wandering band of runaway teenage misfits.

Beautiful Children is a great American epic in the Thomas Pynchon mold, where comedy and tragedy mix fast and loose and the detritus of American popular culture (lovingly and painstakingly described) is elevated to high metaphor. Little escapes Bock's discerning eye, from the megalomaniacal joys of teenage liberation to the pervasive melancholy of modern-day Nevada, from the psychological despair of a suddenly childless mother to the sociological choreography of a lap dance. Long gone are the days when novelists devoted all their energy to the big ideas and left the petty relics of the popular imagination off to the side. In an age like ours and in a world like Las Vegas – that one "place on the planet that instantly offered the chance to reverse fortune and end losing streaks, the chance to set right a lifetime of disappointments" – the noble and the depraved are equal indicators of the national and literary mood. – *Josh Rosenblatt*

Debut NOVELS

THE SOMNAMBULIST

by Jonathan Barnes
William Morrow, 368 pp., $23.95

Jonathan Barnes' brilliant debut novel, *The Somnambulist*, chronicles the late Victorian-era adventures of a legendary magician-cum-detective Edward Moon and his mute, hulking, hairless sidekick, known only as the Somnambulist. The two investigate a series of bizarre murders, meet a cadre of eccentrics, and involve themselves in several strange incidents that culminate in a plot to destroy and remake London.

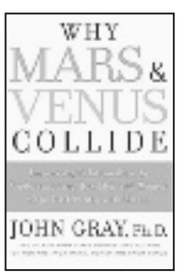


The unreliable, unnamed narrator, who frequently raves like a madman, issues a warning in the very first chapter: "This book has no literary merit whatsoever. It is a lurid piece of nonsense, convoluted, implausible, peopled by unconvincing characters, written in drearily pedestrian prose, frequently ridiculous and wilfully bizarre. Needless to say, I doubt you'll believe a word of it." The preamble is true but for the "pedestrian prose." Barnes crafts one of the finest first novels of the young century, creating an exciting, memorable book peopled with cultists, prostitutes, circus freaks, the undead, albinos, poets, time travelers, assassins, Lovecraftian creatures, and almost every Victorian-type nefarious nasty conceived. The title figure offers an enigmatic yet sympathetic figure who communicates through (poorly spelled) words scribbled on a small chalkboard, does not bleed or feel pain, and displays an intense, inexplicable loyalty to Moon. Truly surprising plot twists and red herrings abound. Through character actions, scene descriptions, and the mention of a scant few historical facts, Barnes successfully conjures the period without divulging dates. Until the final act when the narrator cleverly reveals himself, the author presents one of the finest occult thrillers ever. After veering dangerously close to the absurd, the story ultimately concludes with a lyrically obtuse ending that creates confusion rather than clarity.

Even with that flaw, the engaging ride of *The Somnambulist* offers enough thrills to distract from the ending. Or perhaps, just as Jonathan Barnes' narrator deceives in the narrative, this reviewer misdirects as well? Read *The Somnambulist* and decide for yourself.

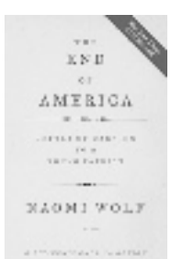
– *Rick Klaw*

Events at BookPeople



WHY MARS AND VENUS COLLIDE
JOHN GRAY
Friday, February 1 7 PM
Harper Collins Publishing
Both men and women agree that living and working in today's society is stressful. What they don't agree on is how to deal with that stress and its negative effects on relationships. When lovers deal with stress differently, anger and resentment can settle in. Today John Gray, the relationship guru and best-selling author of *Men are From Mars, Women are From Venus* will be here to discuss his new book. Come to BookPeople tonight at 7 PM.

THE END OF AMERICA
NAOMI WOLF
Saturday, February 2 4 PM
Chelsea Green Publishing



Best-selling author Naomi Wolf's *The End of America* sounds the alarm for all Americans. Turning her focus from women's rights to civil rights, this Rhodes scholar and consulting editor for *George Magazine* examines the parallels and similarities of post- 9/11 America to the fascism and totalitarianism of Nazi Germany and Pinochet's Chile. Naomi will address momentous issues of tyranny and democracy tonight at 7 PM. This is an event not to be missed.

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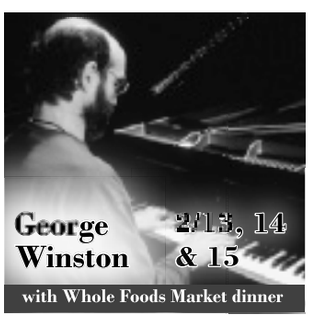
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Colin Hay w/ Jasper's dinner	**6/21**

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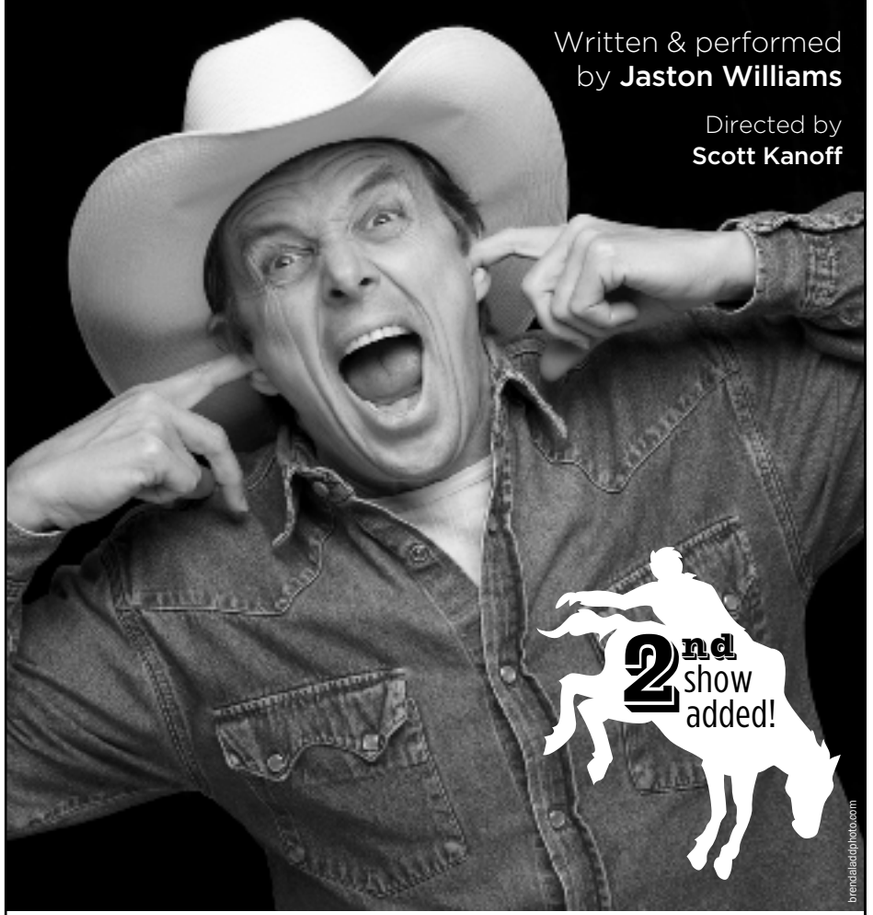
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AFTER A FASHION

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

THE REPORT My oncologist called recently and said she hadn't heard from me and was wondering if I had come to any decisions about treatment for my prostate cancer. She said she'd been keeping up with me through my column, noting that despite my frantic social schedule, even the most fabulous pair of **D&G sunglasses** would not protect me from this cancer. Since I received this diagnosis, the day after my 50th birthday last October, I've been doing what would be called "acting out." This would include amping up the glam factor, partying too much, and staying out all night, sometimes for several nights. Some might say it is little more than a tragic attempt at denial, but let's remember that right before I received the diagnosis, I'd lost 155 pounds and had begun to unleash my new self in a way that I hadn't been able to when I was so overweight. This had already been happening when I found out I had cancer; I could not go anywhere without hearing raves about how good I looked. It was deeply gratifying and gave me a kind of confidence that I hadn't had since I was much younger … *and* thinner. And if anyone tries to say that looks don't matter, I'm here to tell you that is a lie. The attention I was receiving publicly *and* privately proved that. So perhaps I *did* go into overdrive when I found out how ill I was. So what? I was facing the decision of how to proceed with my life – what course of treatment would I choose to deal with this incurable disease? My choices in that department were (and are), in my estimation, grim. First, there's the hormone therapy with all its possible side effects, including osteoporosis, anemia, menopausal symptoms, sexual dysfunction, loss of libido, and growth of breasts (which can be treated with radiation). Hmmm. Charming. Then there's the chemotherapy and its attendant loveliness and, perhaps for dessert, a prostatectomy that would leave me permanently incontinent. And what exactly will all this accomplish? Oh, yes, it will extend my life. "Buy time," as they say. But to what end? It's a complicated matter for me, much more complicated than the simple question of whether I want to live or die. I am going to die from this cancer one way or the other, sooner or later. There is no estimation of how long I can expect to be around if I choose to undergo the treatments and "live." And what would living be like? I can tell you that the hormone therapy is completely repellent to me. Gender is a tricky issue with many gay people, including me. Suffice it to say it took me a very long time to become comfortable in my own skin and not be concerned with anyone else's view of who or what I was. A very long time. Frankly, I'm not at all excited about rocking the boat. In fact, I don't think I'm going to. If I didn't know I was sick, I wouldn't know that I was sick. I feel absolutely no symptoms of the disease at this time. And yet, if I choose treatment, my disease will be evident to me immediately, and I will never, ever be quite the same again. Why wouldn't I want to continue to live as I am now? Left untreated, it is estimated that it will be six months before I am completely debilitated, and I'll be dead three months later. So pencil that in on your calendars for the end of October. Instead of dressing to kill for my annual birthday bash, you'll be choosing glamorous outfits to wear to my funeral. See? Unlike most funerals, this time you'll have plenty of notice to shop for your all-black mourning ensembles. Bearing in mind that the end of October can be either warm or cool, I'd recommend some transitional woolens and dressing in layers. A sleeveless black shift from **Ungaro**, perhaps, with a light cashmere wrap from **Louis Vuitton** or a coat and dress ensemble. Needless to say, the issue of my funeral is even more complicated than the issue of my cancer. Should I request a small, private ceremony with just my family and **Perez Hilton** in attendance, in which my ashes are scattered over **Jackie Kennedy**'s grave? Or do I want a full-blown extravaganza like the end of **Douglas Sirk**'s ***Imitation of Life***, in which my funeral cortege, with prancing ponies leading my casket through throngs of mourners lining the streets of the **Warehouse District**, pauses briefly at **Oilcan Harry's** for a quick vodka and soda (extra lime, please) before continuing on to … where? Details, details. All *I* know is that I've had a fabulous life, with few regrets. If it is my time to go, then so be it. No heroic measures. Nothing. Just let me go. Besides, we know how these things can go, don't we? I'm sure I'll still be around torturing you for another 10 years.



PHOTO BY SEABROOK/JUICYTHIS.COM

At the Austin Film Society's premiere of writer/director John Sayles' new film, *Honeydripper*, starring Austin guitar virtuoso Gary Clark Jr.: (l-r) John Sayles, producer and partner Maggie Renzi, Gary Clark Jr., and sax legend Eddie Shaw

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Down on the Street profiles a local vinyl junkie:

"He's never sold any of his vinyl, has seen the Spice Girls from 11th row center, and thinks it would be fun to play pinball with Rob Zombie."

- Shelley Hiam

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food

46 KENOBI RESTAURANT AND SUSHI BAR
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LISA KIRKPATRICK

Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras – Fat Tuesday – comes early this year, signaling the end of carnival season and a final indulgent celebration before the beginning of the Lenten days of abstinence. Austin Mardi Gras observances have grown over the years, and even though it doesn't look like there will be a local parade, there are plenty of places to enjoy traditional Cajun/Creole dishes, along with king cakes, Community Coffee, Sazeracs, hurricanes, Abita beer, and bright-colored beads, all to the infectious beat of zydeco music. As they say in Louisiana, *laissez les bons temps rouler*! – *Virginia B. Wood*

KING CAKES

Our search turned up two prominent varieties of this traditional carnival-season sweet: the French style, *la galette des rois*, a flaky crown filled with almond paste and cream, often decorated with sliced almonds or dusted with powdered sugar; and the Louisiana style, a buttery coffee cake filled with cinnamon sugar and frosted with a powdered-sugar glaze and sugar crystals in Mardi Gras colors of purple, green, and gold. King cakes are served at parties that begin with the Feast of the Epiphany and continue through Mardi Gras. Tradition dictates there be a porcelain baby or king placed in each cake, and the person who gets the slice containing the baby has to provide the cake for the next party.


JOHN ANDERSON

Sweetish Hill Bakery & Cafe, *1120 W. Sixth, 472-1347*. Austin's oldest French bakery serves up la galette des rois and also has decorated shortbread crowns for your party.

Bakerman's Patisserie and Chocolatier, *120 E. Seventh, 476-0060*. Co-owner Hope Arabie is from New Orleans and insists on the Louisiana-style cake made from brioche dough. Look for some beads and a note about cake history in the box.

Fiesta, *3909 N. I-35, 406-3900; 5510 S. I-35, 373-7800*. The in-store bakeries offer two sizes of brightly decorated Louisiana-style cakes.

La Madeleine, *multiple locations*. This French-themed bakery-cafe chain offers la galette des rois. Preordering is a good idea.

Quack's 43rd Street Bakery, *411 E. 43rd, 453-3399*. Large Louisiana-style cakes will be available this weekend through Tuesday.

Central Market, *4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000; 4477 S. Lamar, 899-4300*. The in-store bakeries prepare the Louisiana-style cakes.

Whole Foods Market, *525 N. Lamar, 476-1206; 9607 Research #300, 345-5003*. The in-store bakeries are making Louisiana-style cakes with three different fillings: cinnamon, raspberry cream cheese, and praline. A bonus: They'll donate $1 from the sale of each king cake to the White Boot Brigade, a group of commercial-fishing families working to rebuild the Louisiana shrimping community devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

MARDI GRAS LISTINGS

Sambet's Cajun & Fiery Deli, *8650 Spicewood Springs Rd., 258-6410*. These folks will kick off crawfish season with their first of many Tuesday crawfish boils. King cakes, beads, and possibly live zydeco music.

Shoal Creek Saloon, *909 N. Lamar, 474-0805*. The kitchen will be roasting whole pigs, frying turkeys, and serving up platters of *cochon du lait*, jambalaya, and Cajun fried turkey all day long.

Evangeline Cafe, *8106 Brodie, 282-2586*. Owner Curtis Clarke says they'll have expanded seating and an extra beer bar under tents in the parking lot so his customers can enjoy the Cajun/Creole specialties on his regular menu plus plenty of beads and king cake. Cajun zydeco from Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces with Cindy Cashdollar (6-8pm) and Ponty Bone & the Squeezetones (8:30pm-12mid).

Gene's New Orleans Style Poboys & Deli, *1209 E. 11th, 477-6600*. Proprietor Gene Tumbs was doing his best to put together a neighborhood parade, but failing that, he'll preside over a big crawfish boil and offer beads and live zydeco on the deck at his place.

Cypress Grill, *4400 W. William Cannon Ste. L, 358-7474*. The good times start rolling in the afternoon here, with a big crawfish boil followed by live music from Jean-Pierre & the Zydeco Angels, plus drink specials on hurricanes and Abita.

Hoover's Cooking, *2002 Manor Rd., 479-5006; 13376 Research #400, 335-0300*. A special Mardi Gras platter with multiple choices including boudin, Cajun roast pork, gumbo, and bread pudding all day.

Fish City Grill, *4200 S. Lamar #300, 442-3478 (FISH); 1019 W. University Ave. #1025 in Georgetown, 512/864-7400*. This family-friendly chain outfit will offer Cajun-inspired food and drink specials all day and evening, with live music from 7 to 10pm.

Ms. B's Authentic Creole Restaurant, *1050 E. 11th #100, 542-9143; 8105 Mesa Ste. A, 372-9529*. Brenda McGowan will serve such New Orleans-inspired specialties as beignets, muffulettas, and sautéed soft-shell crabs at both locations. Indulge in famous New Orleans libations like Sazeracs and absinthe in her Eastside bar.

Roux, *214 E. Sixth, 479-0474*. This relative newcomer to the entertainment district will sport holiday decorations, beads, live Cajun music, a limited Cajun/Creole menu, king cakes, and Louisiana-style drink specials from afternoon through late night.

Gumbo's, *710 Colorado #100, 480-8053,* and the **Brown Bar**, *201 W. Eighth, 480-8330*. Gumbo's regular menu of delicious Creole dishes will be augmented with beads and zydeco on the sound system. Next door at the Brown Bar, they'll be serving authentic Pat O'Brien Hurricanes and their signature Mardi Gras drink – the Big Easy Martini made with Absolut New Orleans vodka.

EVENT MENU FEB. 2-3

▶ If your culinary curiosity is piqued at the thought of sampling a relatively unknown cuisine, consider **A Night in Corsica**, a culinary dinner adventure prepared by award-winning author **Arthur Meyer**, based on recipes from his upcoming book, *Corsican Cuisine – Flavors of the Perfumed Isle*. Dinner is six courses with a sampling of Corsican beverages for $100 per person. Contact **ameyer@texas.net** for reservations and payment options. Saturday, Feb. 2, 7pm.



▶ We got a deluge of snack suggestions for Super Bowl Sunday but none more inviting than the football-shaped pizzas from Austin's own **Mangia Pizza** (six locations around town; **www.mangiapizza.com**). Those crazy Mangia guys will even customize the pizza with your favorite team's logo or revered player's number. And their catering department (374-0800) can put together everything you'll need for parties of 12 or more: football-shaped pizzas, salads, cookies, and brownies. Sunday, Feb. 3. *– V.B.W.*

FOOD-O-FILE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Sweetish Hill Bakery (1120 W. Sixth, 472-1347) has been an Austin fixture since it was founded by **Patricia Bauer-Slate** and **Tom Neuhaus** in a graceful Victorian mansion on Old Swede's Hill in 1975. The bakery soon moved to West Austin and has been a neighborhood mainstay for more than 30 years, turning out fine French pastries, artisan breads, hearty lunches, excellent coffee, and local juices for a very devoted clientele. Neuhaus left Austin early on to pursue other interests, and bread-baker **Jim Murphy** joined as Bauer-Slate's co-owner about 20 years ago. This spring, Sweetish Hill will experience a change in one key ingredient – Bauer-Slate has sold her interest in the bakery to Murphy and is leaving to pursue another career. "I've wanted to cook for schoolchildren since before I started the bakery, and I've decided that now is the perfect time to focus on that goal," she told the *Chronicle* last week. Bauer-Slate started down this new career path about five years ago when Sweetish Hill began providing healthy lunches to some local private-school programs. Just like the menu at the bakery, the hot school lunches are based as much as possible on local, natural, and organic ingredients. Bauer-Slate will now focus exclusively on the school-lunch business with her new venture, **Patricia's Lunchbox** (**www.patriciaslunchbox.com**). Her base of operations is the commercial kitchen at **St. Martin's Lutheran Church** in Central Austin, where her company provides a breakfast snack, hot lunches, and an afternoon snack to students there. She currently services two other small private schools and hopes to add one new school-lunch program a year, each run by a qualified, passionate cook. "This is a particularly good career for women with kids, because it offers them the opportunity to do something healthy for children and conforms to the same kind of schedule," she points out. This new business is very timely; there are like-minded programs sprouting up around the country: Some are being spearheaded by such high-profile chefs as **Alice Waters** and **Anne Cooper**; others are created by concerned mothers like **Susan Rubin**, the subject of **Amy Kalafa**'s call-to-arms 2005 documentary, *Two Angry Moms* (**www.twoangrymoms.com**). Former Texas Agriculture Commissioner **Susan Combs** has been quoted as saying, "It would take 2 million angry moms to change school-lunch programs." Bauer-Slate isn't angry, but she does have a plan to change Austin school-lunch programs, one school at a time. Meanwhile, don't expect things at Sweetish Hill to change much; several longtime employees provide crucial continuity of service alongside owner Murphy: Head baker **Trang Van Hoach** (30 years) is in the bakery, retail manager **Michael Landry** (10 years) is back in charge of front-of-the-house operations, **Dana Homick** (15 years) is head chef, and **Jeanne Martin** (18 years) oversees the catering and takeout departments.

GALLO FAMILY VINEYARDS THIRD ANNUAL GOLD MEDAL AWARDS

The family-owned California vineyard created the Gold Medal Awards program to recognize excellence in American artisan food production. The competition is open to artisanal food producers who have been in business at least a year, and entries can be made in seven categories: bread/baked good; condiment, oil, or vinegar; confectionary good; dairy; fish and seafood; fruit or vegetable; meat and charcuterie. Category winners will receive a $5,000 business-development grant, a trip to New York for the awards ceremony, and gold-medal seals of excellence to display on their winning product. In addition, the overall winner will be featured in a national advertising campaign touting their product as a prestigious award winner and will win a trip to the 2008 Aspen Food & Wine Classic in June, where their winning product will be on display. Although this is still a young program, it offers small artisanal food producers an opportunity for invaluable national recognition. Texan **Hugh Fitzsimmons**, owner of **Thunder Heart Bison**, was a winner in 2007, and he encourages area food artisans to enter the competition. Entries will be accepted through Feb. 28 and will be evaluated by a distinguished panel of culinary judges. More info, rules, and entry forms at **www.gallofamily.com**.

KENOBI RESTAURANT AND SUSHI BAR

10000 Research Ste. A, 241-0119
Monday-Thursday, 11am-11pm; Friday-Saturday, 11am-12mid; Sunday, noon-10pm
www.kenobiaustin.com

Kenobi has opened in what used to be the Dan McClusky's location on the western edge of the Arboretum, right off of Great Hills Drive. Kenobi means "blooming flower" in Japanese; think Japanese fusion cuisine and sushi, very artistically presented. You walk in to find an architecturally lit space full of dark wood and complementary earth tones. Accenting wall sections are covered with huge mosaics of small, rectangular native stone; tabletops are covered with crosscuts of bamboo, sealed in polymer. The whole effect is understated Asian: hip, cool, elegant, and modern.

The sushi menu has a full complement of sushi, sashimi, hand rolls, and *maki*, with all of the usual suspects well-represented. There are 15 house-specialty rolls, including some rather creative options. We sampled the Seven and a Half ($14), composed of yellowfin tuna, salmon, yellowtail, and avocado; rolled and tempura-fried; and served with eel sauce, spicy pepper paste, and Japanese mayo. A crunchy exterior yielded to the succulent core, a nice combination of flavors. The Millennium ($11) is a blend of spicy tuna, peppercorn-seared tuna, and avocado, served with *ponzu* and sesame oil. Both are works of art on the plate and both delicious.

We tried escolar (snake mackerel) sashimi ($10), five thick, buttery, and luscious slices served on crushed ice with a small salad. Salt-water eel roll ($7) is a reverse roll of grilled saltwater eel with black sesame seeds; the roll could have been tighter and the eel a tad fresher. Soft-shell crab roll ($8) has an interior of crunchy crab, masago roe, cucumber, and sprouts; it was nice but didn't excite.

We tried two starters from the "Land" side of the appetizer section and two from the "Sea"; there are 21 starters combined. Rib-Eye Maki ($8, available as an entrée for $16) is superb: four rolls of sliced rib eye enwrapping Japanese yam and avocado, grilled, and glazed with teriyaki, a study in contrasting texture and compatible flavors. Pork Katsu ($8) is equally delicious: four nice fork-tender medallions of crispy panko-crusted tenderloin served with cinnamon-spiked apple and tequila-lime syrup. Seiho Scallops ($8) are simple but tasty: four large scallops sautéed in soy-garlic butter, topped with jalapeño slices.

Gindara Filet ($12) is a big winner: a fillet of silky and unctuous black cod slathered with sweet miso glaze and baked, served with seasoned rice and excellent yakitori-marinated and grilled baby bok choy. This starters section of the menu is dynamic and adventurous, and we will be trying the rest. We never got around to the five soups or the six salads offered on the menu, several of which sounded very tempting, like the wild mushroom and tea-smoked chicken soup with crispy brown rice and the squid salad.

From the entrées section we've sampled four of the 12 offerings, which range from $14 to $32. Frenched Bone-in Rib-Eye ($24, 12 ounces) was nicely cooked, tender, and delicious. It came on a mound of unique and appetizing wasabi mashed potatoes with several tempura sweet-onion rings. Asian Braised Beef Short Rib ($16) was equally good: three rich, fall-off-the-bone meaty ribs on a mound of lemon-scented mashers with grilled asparagus. The asparagus should have been peeled or trimmed more judiciously, as the lower sections were too stringy to eat.



JOHN ANDERSON

Chipotle Salmon ($18) was a definite winner: a nice slab of perfectly moist salmon with a zippy chipotle miso sauce, accompanied by wonderful dashi risotto and the grilled yakitori bok choy. Both of these sides are so good, they almost overpowered the salmon. Crispy Seared Snapper ($21) is several nice pieces of snapper served atop a frisky sweet-tart-spicy sauce, matched with a mound of very thin sweet-potato strings and tempura asparagus. In Kenobi's entrée world, all of the portions are generous, and the food is artistically plated.

We sampled two desserts. The favorite was a Japanese plum ice cream ($3), which has just the right amount of sweetness, loads of perfectly toothsome fruit, and a seductive texture. Mochi ice cream balls ($7) require a bit of explanation. Mochi is a traditional Japanese New Year's dish made from soaked glutinous rice, which is pounded with mallets and formed into a sticky cake. Kenobi has taken a pasta-thin sheet of mochi and molded it around a core of vanilla ice cream; the dish contains a half-dozen or so oval globes. We loved the textural play between the rich ice cream and the chewy, sticky rice.

Kenobi has an extensive bar selection, and the drink menu focuses on martinis, a lengthy list of *sake* options, and a large wine list. We can see how this element alone, combined with the design of the space, will seduce drinkers into establishing a lively bar scene. Table-side service could not have been more professional, and the staff was helpful in suggesting dishes and answering questions. With just a bit of polishing, we see Kenobi emerging as a power player in Austin's upscale Asian fusion cuisine scene. – *Mick Vann*

Restaurant REVIEWS





TC NOODLE HOUSE

10901 N. Lamar Ste. B-203, 873-8235
Monday-Sunday, 10am-9pm

When I first started enjoying dim sum in Austin, the place to go on a Sunday afternoon was Tien Hong to chow on crispy duck and pan-fried dumplings while sipping chrysanthemum tea. As time want by, Tien Hong slowly fell off the radar. Quality of food and service were also declining, and I started to frequent other places on Sunday mornings. Happily, on a recent visit to Austin's Chinatown Center, I discovered TC Noodle House, a haven for Asian noodle lovers that happens to be the newest venture from the same family that owns Tien Hong. In a brand-new, superclean space with very friendly and efficient service in addition to an interesting menu, I sense an upcoming resurgence for the longtime Austin restaurateurs.

The menu at TC features culinary specialties of the Teochew people native to the Guangdong province in southern China. Because of geographical proximity, their cuisine is highly influenced by that of Vietnam, so the menu features an incredible variety of both Chinese- and Vietnamese-style dishes. A house specialty, the Teochew spiced meats are braised and flavored with Chinese five-spice, star anise, garlic, and other exotic spices, then served atop a thick and spicy soy sauce. Cuts vary daily, and our choices were hard-boiled eggs, pig ear, stomach, and duck. We chose the latter, which was probably the best duck dish I've ever had. Another Teochew specialty is rice porridge, a "comfort" dish that can be garnished with a variety of ingredients, and at least four styles are represented at TC.

The emphasis, however, is on a mind-boggling array of egg noodle, rice noodle, and lo mein noodle dishes. Egg and rice noodles are found in deliciously nourishing soups, made with three different fragrant and rich broths. On a cold afternoon, I swooned over an egg-noodle soup with a whole braised duck leg so tender I took it apart with chopsticks. The broth was redolent of five-spice with just a hint of star anise that did not overpower. Garnished with a slice of fresh tomato, a whole plump shiitake mushroom, stalks of crisp Chinese broccoli, and a pickled plum, the soup combined every texture and flavor profile – sweet, salty, bitter, and tart. As I write this plagued with cedar fever, I sure wish someone would bring me a bowl of that stuff *right now*. Another excellent soup combines egg noodles, homemade wontons, and big, plump shrimp in a flavorful chicken broth, perfect for less adventurous diners.

There's also a wide assortment of pan-fried and stir-fried noodles with a variety of meats, seafood, and veggies, which make hearty and satisfying one-dish meals. Among the rice dishes, the outstanding boneless chicken



JOHN ANDERSON

thigh stuffed with shrimp forcemeat and fried to a perfect crisp, served with hot steamed rice, homemade pickled vegetables, and fish sauce on the side, was the most pleasant surprise at TC and a dish that I'll be back to eat many times. Traditional desserts, exotic drinks, and pearl teas round out the menu at this inexpensive and authentic not-to-be-missed establishment. – *Claudia Alarcón*

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DOWNTOWN

BARBECUE: **LAMBERTS** Offering steaks, chops, seafood, and barbecue, this spot in the 2nd Street District caught on fast. That may have something to do with live music upstairs almost every night. *401 W. Second, 494-1500.* **www.lambertsaustin.com**. $$

CAJUN/CREOLE, PUB GRUB: **SHOAL CREEK SALOON** A Cajun oasis next to Shoal Creek, with great South Louisiana chow, ice-cold beer, and a warm and fuzzy ambience. It's the friendliest sports bar in town. *909 N. Lamar, 474-0805.* **www.shoalcreeksaloon.com**. $$

CARIBBEAN: **HABANA CALLE 6** Find deep-fried, rich, and plentiful Cuban here. Pork and plantains rule the roost, while sauces contain the flavors that drive the dishes from simple to something special. *709 E. Sixth, 443-4252.* **www.habana.com**. $$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **HOG ISLAND DELI** For authentic hoagies on traditional Italian hard-crusted bread, this is the spot. Cheesesteaks and a nice assortment of pasta dishes round out the menu. *1612 Lavaca, 482-9090.* **www.hogislanddeli.com**. $

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: **CARMELO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT** Offers an upscale Italian and continental menu in a beautifully restored Downtown railroad hotel. Live accordian music five nights a week. *504 E. Fifth, 477-7497.* **www.carmelosrestaurant.com**. $$$$

FINE DINING, SEAFOOD: **EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Fine dining in a supper-club atmosphere with live music almost every night. They specialize in fresh seafood, oysters, and prime beef. *301 E. Fifth, 472-1860.* **www.eddiev.com**. $$$$

FINE DINING: **RESTAURANT JEZEBEL** Owner/chef Parind Vora's delightful spicing and inventive combinations of flavor show his Indian heritage. The service is gracious and attentive, as well as bilingual! *914-C Congress, 499-3999.* **www.restaurantjezebel.com**. $$$$

FINE DINING: **SHORELINE GRILL** Panfusion food of the first order in the upper-moderate range, with items like semolina-crusted oysters with mango salsa and grilled tuna with *sake*-ginger butter. Stampede-popular at lunch. *98 San Jacinto, 477-3300.* **www.shorelinegrill.com**. $$$

JAPANESE: **ARIRANG SUSHI** Popular with both touring and local bands, this spot offers perfectly decent sushi at relatively low prices. The Spider Roll is a standout, but don't miss the vegetarian choices. *616 E. Sixth, 480-2211.* $$

PACIFIC RIM: **ROY'S AUSTIN** This is Hawaiian cuisine fused with the flavors of Western Europe. If you're not sure what to order, try one of Roy's Classics, like the Yellow Fin Ahi Poketini. *340 E. Second, 391-1500.* **www.roysrestaurant.com**. $$

STEAKHOUSE: **AUSTIN LAND & CATTLE CO.** Elegant ambience and service, with first-rate steaks at quite reasonable prices. Particular care is taken with the sides, making for a complete experience. Excellent wine list. *1205 N. Lamar, 472-1813.* **www.austinlandandcattlecompany.com**. $$$

TEX-MEX: **LAS MANITAS AVENUE CAFE** If people-watching and amiable service don't explain the weekend wait, one taste of their *Migas Especiales con Hongos* surely will. Enjoy the dishwasher's song as you walk through the kitchen to get to the patio. *211 Congress, 472-9357.* $$

EAST

AMERICAN CAFE: **CISCO'S BAKERY** In the breakfast business for 50 years, they still serve good migas, huevos rancheros, and hot biscuits with healthy doses of Austin political history. *1511 E. Sixth, 478-2420.* $

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **PROGRESS COFFEE** Serves fair-trade, shade-grown organic coffee in a revamped warehouse showcasing some of Austin's best artwork. The menu walks a tasty line between deli standards and gourmet innovation. One block east of I-35. *500 San Marcos St., 493-0963.* **www.progresscoffee.com**. $

BARBECUE: **LEWIS' BAR-B-Q** Step up to the window of this unassuming concrete shack for a juicy chopped-beef sandwich or a link of smoky sausage; then have a seat at the picnic tables. *1814 Harvey, 473-2225.* $

CAJUN/CREOLE: **PAPPADEAUX** Items here include po'boys, dinner plates, and combos with shrimp, oysters, and crab. Order the fish fried, blackened, or charbroiled with a variety of side dishes. *6319 N. I-35, 452-9363.* **www.pappadeaux.com**. $$$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: **EL POLLO REGIO** The pollo asado is served with borracho beans, tortillas, grilled onions, tomato salsa, and lime wedges, plus a scrumptious green avocado salsa. *6615 Berkman, 933-9557.* **www.elpolloregio.net**. $

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **GENE'S NEW ORLEANS STYLE POBOYS & DELI** The royalty of New Orleans-style soul food in Austin. The po'boys are the real deal, and the fantastic daily soul-food specials keep the place hopping at lunchtime. *1209 E. 11th, 477-6600.* **www.genesrestaurant.com**. $

TEX-MEX: **ANGIE'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT** This homey restaurant serves up Tex-Mex breakfasts and huge $6 lunch specials. Their incredible homemade corn tortillas are one of their many claims to fame. *900 E. Seventh, 476-5413.* $$

TEX-MEX: **INOCENTE'S CAFE** A great place to sip an icy *agua de horchata*, enjoy good Tex-Mex cuisine, and soak up the flavor of the neighborhood. *2337 E. Cesar Chavez, 479-0218.* $$

TEX-MEX: **JUAN IN A MILLION** Find one of our favorite "heart attack" breakfasts: gorditas with chorizo and fried eggs slathered with chile con queso. Arteries may harden around the room, but no one seems to care. *2300 E. Cesar Chavez, 472-3872.* **www.juaninamillion.com**. $$

TEX-MEX: **LA MORENITA MEXICAN RESTAURANT** By the smells and bright brick and tile interior you can guess what's on the menu, and that's just fine with the regulars. *2944 E. 12th, 472-4841.* $

LAKE

BARBECUE: **SMOKY J'S BAR-B-Q** A definitive Texas barbecue joint with a smoking pit out back, window service, and picnic tables. Meat is available by the sandwich, the plate, or the pound, and it's still BYOB. *7008 RR 620 N., 331-4888.* $$

FINE DINING, ITALIAN, SEAFOOD: **ROCCO'S GRILL LAKEWAY** Overlooking the hills of Lakeway, its pasta and seafood selections are the way to go. *900 RR 620 S., 263-8204.* **www.roccosgrill.com**. $$$

TEX-MEX: **IGUANA GRILL** A medium-priced menu offers most of the standards, but the flautas and sauces really stand out. Fabulous margaritas and a stellar beer selection go well with a killer view. *2900 RR 620 N., 266-8439.* **www.iguanagrillaustin.com**. $$

NORTH

AMERICAN CAFE, TAKEOUT: **JASPER'S GOURMET BACKYARD CUISINE** This Dallas-area transplant offers big hospitality and big flavors. Try the Maytag Blue Cheese Potato Chips. *11506 Century Oaks Terrace #128, 834-4111.* **www.jaspers-restaurant.com**. $$

BARBECUE: **COOPER'S PIT BAR-B-Q** The second generation of a Hill Country barbecue legend, Gary Cooper has been serving his family's style of barbecue in downtown Round Rock since 1985. *403 N. Mays, 255-5638.* **www.coopersbbq.com**. $$

FINE DINING: **EUROPEAN BISTRO** A graciously unpretentious ambience of intimate dining alcoves and Eastern European classical music – the perfect atmosphere for the traditional Austro-Hungarian Empire dishes that they serve. *111 E. Main, 835-1919.* **www.hungarianbistro.com**. $$$

FINE DINING: **MAIN STREET GRILL** An elegant oasis whose warm wood and interior columns refer to its former life as a small-town bank, complete with a wine cellar in the intact vault. *118 E. Main, 244-7525.* $$$$

INDIAN: **CURRY IN A HURRY** The authentic North Indian vegetarian menu here changes every day. Order an entrée and a side at the counter, and one minute later it arrives with rice and roti or *paratha* alongside. Snacks, *chaat*, and sweets appear on weekends. *2121 W. Parmer, Ste. 114-A, 821-0000.* **www.gandhibazar.com**. $

ITALIAN: **ANDIAMO RISTORANTE** Each month a different region of Italy is highlighted on a menu of homemade pastas, soups, entrées, and desserts. The list of Italian wines is extensive. *2521 Rutland, 719-3377.* $$$

JAPANESE: **MIDORI** Given its location, you'd expect lots of lunch traffic, especially considering the bargain lunch specials. A nice array of entrée choices is available for dinner and takeout. *13435 Hwy. 183 N., 257-1411.* $$$

PIZZA: **MANGIA CHICAGO STUFFED PIZZA** Delectable and deceptively filling stuffed pizza at a reasonable cost. Now going cross-cultural with breakfast tacos. *12001 Burnet Rd., 832-5550.* **www.mangiapizza.com**. $

VIETNAMESE: **PHO CONG LY** This location has quickly become a staple for quick, cheap, and tasty meals. Where else can you slurp down a bowl of pho and listen to ABBA? *8557 Research, 832-5595.* $

NORTH CENTRAL

CHINESE: **SHANGHAI RESTAURANT** The 168-item menu contains enough to satisfy any craving, from the usual favorites to some exotic Cantonese offerings. *6718 Middle Fiskville, 458-8088.* $$

CHINESE: **WANFU III** You'll find the same offerings at this new location of the Barton Springs favorite. *6801 Airport, 459-5200.* **www.wanfuaustin.com**. $$

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: **ASTI TRATTORIA** For various Italian regional cuisines and an extensive wine list of mostly Italian and Cal-Ital selections, try this Hyde Park corner spot. *408-C E. 43rd, 451-1218.* **www.astiaustin.com**. $$$

INDIAN: **TAJ PALACE** Austin's longest-established local Indian restaurant, where the royal court cuisine of North India is served in an attractive setting. *6700 Middle Fiskville, 452-9959.* $$

continued on p.50

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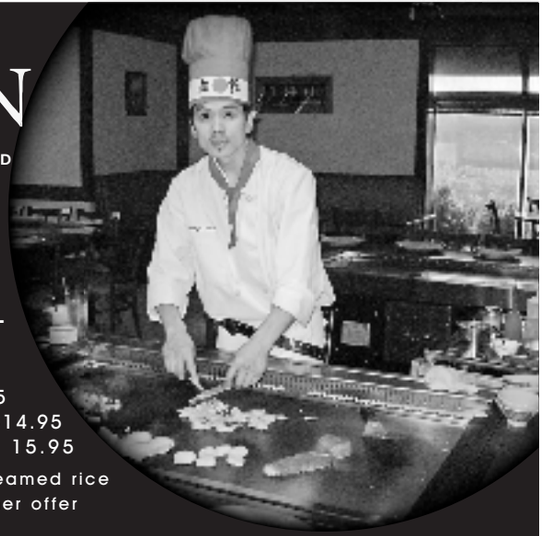
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food :: RESTAURANT ROULETTE :: FROM P.48

PIZZA: **THE PARLOR** Great pizza, flowing pitchers, and a punk feel come together amid the strains of a stellar jukebox. ***100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965.*** **www.myspace.com/theparlor**. ***$$***

SEAFOOD: **QUALITY SEAFOOD** Friendly bartenders and two flat-screen TVs for your viewing pleasure. It's the place where all your favorite restaurants get their seafood, so you know it's the freshest. Hit the oyster bar for lunch or an early dinner. ***5621 Airport, 454-5827.*** **www.qualityseafoodmarket.com**. ***$***

TEX-MEX: **EL POLLO FELIZ** Tender, juicy rotisserie chickens by the plate, whole bird, or party pack paired with reliable side dishes will make your wallet happy. ***6801 Airport, 323-6604. $***

TEX-MEX: **FREEBIRDS WORLD BURRITO** Fresh ingredients; a fun, casual atmosphere; and their patented "Bad Ass BBQ Sauce" make this place a must-try. Plan early for the lunch hour, when lines are out the door. ***1000 E. 41st, 451-5514.*** **www.freebirds.com**. ***$***

TEX-MEX: **TAMALE HOUSE** An Airport Boulevard institution, they offer authentic, no-frills Tex-Mex. Pull up a chair on the sunbaked concrete, and forget about tamales; they actually do not serve them. ***5003 Airport, 453-9842.*** **www.myspace.com/tamalehouse**. ***$***

THAI: **THAI VILLAGE** Enjoy a classy but still affordable meal and very artful food presentation. ***6406 N. I-35, 452-3888.*** **www.thaivillageaustin.com**. ***$$***

SOUTH

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Upstairs find baked goods, sandwiches, and friendly service. In the shop below find great vintage and not-so-vintage finds. It's worth a stop. ***1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646.*** **www.flipnotics.com**. ***$***

CHINESE: **FIRE BOWL CAFE** Asian stir-fried rice bowls featuring your choice of veggies, beef, chicken, pork, shrimp, or salmon. ***5601 Brodie, 899-8998.*** **www.firebowlcafe.com**. ***$***

CHINESE: **MANDARIN CHINESE RESTAURANT** Beer and wine served amidst quick but flavorful entrées gives the authentically Oriental decor an American twist. ***212 E. Oltorf, 445-2225. $$***

CUBAN: **HABANA SOCO** Rising from the ashes of a fire, Habana has opened bigger and stronger. The Lechon Asado roast pork is a must, as is the Cubano sandwich for a lighter bite, with lots of appetizers to go with the drinks. ***2728 S. Congress, 443-4253.*** **www.habana.com**. ***$$***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **JO'S COFFEE** The best people-watching spot in the 78704 ZIP code. The usual coffees and lattes, as well as a selection of baked goods provide context for the best fried pies in town. ***1300 S. Congress, 444-3800.*** **www.joscoffee.com**. ***$***

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: **VESPAIO RISTORANTE** A comfy bar, great service, and a dazzling display of antipasti near the front door lure us in, and the pasta and heirloom tomatoes do the rest. ***1610 S. Congress, 441-6100.*** **www.austinvespaio.com**. ***$$$***

JAPANESE: **ZEN JAPANESE FOOD FAST** You have to work pretty hard to spend more than $7 here. When we want fast, fresh, and tasty food we head to one of their three locations. ***1303 S. Congress, 444-8081.*** **www.eatzen.com**. ***$***

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **CHERRY CREEK CATFISH COMPANY** A comfortable family restaurant with something on the menu to please everyone. Try the fried green tomatoes. ***5712 Manchaca, 440-8810.*** **www.cherrycreekcatfish.com**. ***$$***

TEX-MEX: **EVITA'S BOTANITAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT** Home of the famous chip tower, surrounded by veggie escabeche and five different salsas. Many seafood items, excellent breakfast, great *mole*, and homemade tamales. ***6400 S. First Ste. B, 441-2424.*** **www.evitasbotanitas.com**. ***$$***

TEX-MEX: **LA REYNA RESTAURANT** The Queen of South First. You'll find a casual and friendly atmosphere here and some of the best no-frills Tex-Mex south of the river. ***1816 S. First, 447-1280.*** **www.lareyna.citysearch.com**. ***$$***

UT

AMERICAN CAFE: **CAIN & ABEL'S** This longtime UT Greek hangout in West Campus is best known as a watering hole but also serves salads, soups, wraps, and breakfast tacos all day. ***2313 Rio Grande, 476-3201.*** **www.cainandabels.com**. ***$***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **TEXAS FRENCH BREAD** Still the perfect places to duck in for a scone, pastry, and cup of coffee. Check out the sandwich menu for light lunch fare. ***3213 Red River, 478-8794.*** **www.texasfrenchbread.com**. ***$***

BRAZILIAN: **SÃO PAULO'S** Offering Tex-Mex dishes as well as Brazilian cuisine, like their version of the national dish, *feijoada*, the constantly changing daily specials shouldn't be missed. ***2809 San Jacinto, 473-9988. $$***

BURGER JOINT, DELIVERY, PUB GRUB: **PLUCKERS WING FACTORY & GRILL** This may be the local Oakland Raiders headquarters, but there are plenty of TVs, and the wings keep coming until the wee hours. ***2222 Rio Grande, 469-9464.*** **www.pluckers.net**. ***$***

CHINESE: **YEN CHING NOODLE HOUSE** Get your noodle fix with homemade noodles and fantastic Ma Po Dofu. ***2910 Guadalupe, 472-4754. $***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, DELIVERY: **FOODHEADS** Morning fare consists of cappuccino, espresso, pastries, and breakfast tacos. By lunchtime, you can choose from a staggering array of sandwiches, soups, salads, and side dishes. ***616 W. 34th, 420-8400.*** **www.foodheads.com**. ***$***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **NAU'S PHARMACY** A traditional, old-fashioned, mom-and-pop drug store, with soda fountain/diner, office supplies, and a decent selection of cards and gifts. Not many of these places left. ***2406 San Gabriel, 476-1544. $***

MIDDLE EASTERN: **KISMET CAFE** Serving Mediterranean/American cuisine, Philly subs, gyros, and salads. ***411 W. 24th, 236-1811. $$***

PIZZA: **NIKI'S PIZZA** Consistently good, crisp slices of the Big Apple, sold alone or in a pie. Niki's is one of the best pizzas in town, served up with modest panache. ***2021 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 474-1876. $***

SOUTHWESTERN: **MOE'S SOUTHWEST GRILL** You won't find heat lamps at this lunch favorite, but you will find items made-to-order using fresh ingredients. Try the Homewrecker burrito. ***2270 Guadalupe, 478-6637. $***

STEAKHOUSE: **SALTGRASS STEAK HOUSE** The casual, noisy atmosphere makes this an appropriate family steak house. The Denny's-esque menu also offers foods other than steaks, most of which have been heavily breaded, fried, and smothered in cheese. ***2300 N. I-35, 238-0091.*** **www.saltgrass.com**. ***$$***

WEST

AMERICAN CAFE, FINE DINING: **CASTLE HILL CAFE** After two decades in business, this eatery has a fresh, new look, with a recently redecorated interior and updated menu items. ***1101 W. Fifth, 476-0728.*** **www.castlehillcafe.com**. ***$$$***

AMERICAN CAFE: **THE OMELETTRY** Before there was Magnolia or Kerbey Lane, there was the Omelettry, beloved for its eggs, flapjacks, and home fries. Same as it ever was. ***4811 Burnet Rd., 453-5062. $***

AMERICAN CAFE: **Y BAR & GRILL** A stunning butterfly roof and an airy interior give this Oak Hill spot an urbane atmosphere. Try the parchment-wrapped sea bass or the bacon-wrapped stuffed quail. ***7720 Hwy. 71 W., 394-0220.*** **www.ybargrill.com**. ***$$$***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **PACHA** You'll find superior coffee drinks at this relaxed and comfortable neighborhood hangout. Step up to the counter for tasty breakfasts, lunches, and dinners, too. ***4618 Burnet Rd., 420-8758. $***

BARBECUE: **THE PIT BARBECUE** Barbecue plates and sandwiches. Counter service and daily specials. ***4707 Burnet Rd., 453-6464.*** **www.thepitbarbeque.com**. ***$***

BURGER JOINT: **WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Hand-cut fries and chocolate-cinnamon shakes draw a comfortable, mixed crowd. ***8600 Burnet Rd., 458-6544.*** **www.waterlooicehouse.com**. ***$$***

CHINESE: **ASIA CAFE** Funky counter service in the back of the Asia Market grocery provides the best and most authentic Chinese food in town. Unadulterated Sichuan cuisine well worth the drive from anywhere. ***8650 Spicewood Springs Rd., 331-5780. $***

ITALIAN: **BELLAGIO ITALIAN BISTRO** Don't plan on arriving late and having a leisurely dining experience – they like to close the kitchen as soon as the dinner rush starts to slow down. ***6507 Jester, 346-8228.*** **www.bellagioitalianbistro.com**. ***$$$$***

JAPANESE: **OSAKA** Here you'll find friendly service in a folksy, neighborhood setting; large portions of impeccably fresh fish; and prices that won't topple the average budget. ***13492 Research #160, 918-8012. $$$***

MEDITERRANEAN: **TINO'S GREEK CAFE** Northwest Austin's gift to the Greek culinary gods. Great prices and portions served from a cafeteria-like line, with oodles of choices for carnivores and vegetarians alike. ***13450 Research #237, 336-5999. $$***

TEX-MEX: **LA COCINA DE CONSUELO** This tiny yet first-class Mexican food restaurant provides both sit-down and takeout meals, as well as exceptional, professional Mexican catering for your big event. ***4516 Burnet Rd., 524-4740.*** **www.consueloskitchen.com**. ***$***

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Big Time, Small Screen

Local filmmaker Ya'Ke's 'The Second Coming' screens on HBO

BY TODDY BURTON

Ya'Ke likes to direct actors. "That's my thing," he says confidently, as if he's stating that he has a head full of dreadlocks or that he grew up on the east side of San Antonio. Born Dwain Ya'Ke Allen Smith Jr., Ya'Ke (as he's known both professionally and to his friends) is more than just an up-and-coming local filmmaker (splitting his time between San Antonio and Austin). At 27, he's made three highly successful short films, been nominated for a Student Academy Award, screened on Showtime, played at Cannes, and completed his Master of Fine Arts in directing at the University of Texas (which is where I first met Ya'Ke in 2003). Currently, he's teaching a directing workshop at UT and developing a feature script set for production in early 2009. Exhausted yet? Ya'Ke isn't. He's just getting started. His most recent short and graduate thesis film, "The Second Coming," premieres on HBO on Feb. 4 and runs through March 2.

Not long after I arrive at his Eastside apartment, Ya'Ke starts handing me DVDs. "Have you seen this? Great performances. This, too – have you watched this?" More movies come off the shelf. "I'm going to take you all the way back to '72," he chuckles, pulling out a DVD for *Lady Sings the Blues* (Diana Ross' classic portrayal of Billie Holiday). His smile is followed by a reverent pause. "She was awesome in that movie. I just love seeing people that can perform."

Ya'Ke repeatedly reminds me that his name means "son of God, great warrior" in Swahili. To some people, this might be a burdensome moniker. How do you begin to live up to that? And with his wide smile and bellowing laugh, Ya'Ke doesn't necessarily come across as a warrior. Until he starts talking about his movies. Says Ya'Ke: "The films [I make] are about this class of people who get swept under the rug, people we don't see films about. Those are the people that I grew up with. That's the world that I know. When I was growing up, I used to go and read about all these great people – Billie Holiday, Martin [Luther] King, Malcolm X – I would read these stories about these people who pulled themselves up from poverty, and I would look around at the people who were in my environment, and I would think, 'If these people can pull themselves up, why can't we?'"

The son of a substitute-teacher mother and a mostly absent father, Ya'Ke remembers growing up in East San Antonio: "It's just like the hood of any other city. There's poverty, there's drugs, there's gangs. It's not the Alamo or the River Walk. It's like a whole other city. It's hard out there, and people don't necessarily know that."

After watching John Singleton's depiction of life in South Central Los Angeles, *Boyz n the Hood*, when he was 11 years old, Ya'Ke's world changed. "That film impacted me because I was dealing with those issues. I saw those things, and I knew those people. When I was young, we had the bullets flying through our house. Those things were happening. And I want to make movies like that." At 15, he picked up his first camera and has been at it ever since.

Indeed, Ya'Ke's films reflect the struggles he's witnessed and experienced. "Shopping," which won multiple film-festival awards and aired nationally on television, follows the story of a single mother (played by his wife, Mikala Gibson, a regular in his films) who steals food to feed her kids. "Hope's War," which won the Directors Guild of America Student Film Award and played at Cannes, is about a U.S. soldier who violently struggles to adapt after returning from Iraq.

With "The Second Coming," Ya'Ke continues his trail of success. The story of a father who returns home from prison to make amends with his son, the film was nominated for a Student Academy Award and won the HBO Short Film Award at the American Black Film Festival, which came with airtime on HBO and a check for $20,000. But what Ya'Ke remembers best about the film's L.A. premiere is what happened in the bathroom afterward.



TODD V. WOLFSON

Ya'Ke

"I was in the restroom, and all these guys came in. It was funny. They surrounded me, and they were just like, 'Man, I haven't spoken to my father in years, and for some reason this film makes me want to go and give him a call.' I'm not going to say the film is a call to action. But it is."

"The Second Coming" premieres on HBO Feb. 4. For more information about Ya'Ke's films, visit **www.exodusfilmworks.com.**

FILM NEWS

BY JOE O'CONNELL

NO. 1 AUSTIN DOES THE SUNDANCE

Ponder these two facts: ***MovieMaker* magazine** has proclaimed Austin the best place to "live, work and make movies," but the city – and the state of Texas as a whole – amassed a paltry $300,000 from Hollywood studio film production in 2007. For the record, it was a brief shoot for ***A Mighty Heart***, and, yes, NBC's ***Friday Night Lights*** that picked up much of the slack pre-Writers Guild strike by spending about five times that on each episode shot in Austin. *MovieMaker* ranked Austin No. 1 for the first time since 2004, citing statewide cooperation that resulted in the new film-incentives program, a strong crew base, great film-education opportunities, hot film festivals, and plain old enthusiasm. The latest fallout from the Sundance Film Festival emphasizes the latter. Austin's hottest cinematographer, **P.J. Raval**, saw his camerawork honored as Hurricane Katrina doc ***Trouble the Water*** was feted as best documentary by the grand jury. Meanwhile, former Austinites and brothers **Jay and Mark Duplass**' comedy/slasher feature, ***Baghead***, was snapped up for distribution by Sony Pictures Classics. **Jonathan Levine**'s not from Austin, but he made his directorial debut, the still-unreleased (and quite entertaining) *All the Boys Love Mandy Lane*, here. His follow-up, ***The Wackness***, got the Sundance dramatic feature audience award.

SHAUNA CROSS' DREAMS: A BOOK, A PAGE, A BARRYMORE

The last time I saw **Shauna Cross** was at the Landing Strip, where she cast a slew of extras (including me) for a topless-bar scene in *Varsity Blues*. Back then, she was a recent University of Texas film grad with dreams of writing and directing. Now, she's a seasoned L.A.-based scribe with gold dust on her keyboard. Cross sold her young-adult novel, *Derby Girl*, on the basis of a few chapters; then she sold Drew Barrymore's production company on a film adaptation called ***Whip It!*** that is expected to film hereabouts this summer with *Juno*'s **Ellen Page** in the cast and Barrymore directing. Austin native Cross ended up writing the book and the script simultaneously, and both are love letters to her hometown and Roller Derby, something she took up – as Maggie Mayhem – after moving to Los Angeles. "It's taken on a life of its own," she says of the project that writing pal **Kirsten Smith** (*Legally Blonde*) urged her to pursue. "It's the most uncalculated thing I've ever done. When I sold the book, I thought it would be this little tiny thing, this weird personal thing." She hints that a very exciting cast will join Page in the film, which is set in both Austin and a semifictional small town whose claim to fame is ice cream.

VILLA MUSE OUT OF AUSTIN'S ETJ?

On the Austin City Council agenda for Thursday, Jan. 31, is a considered proposal to direct the city manager to enter discussion with **Villa Muse** folks about removing from the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction the proposed 1,900-acre facility (800 acres of which will be a construction staging crew). Villa Muse, a multimedia and entertainment production and postproduction facility for film, television, video games, animation, advertising, and video and magnetic media restoration, hopes to start construction this year near FM 969 and Highway 130, with the first phase completed in 2009. Villa Muse cites a study from the Perryman Group that predicts the project could bring $20 billion in annual spending to the Austin area and up to 110,000 jobs, 1,000 directly at the studio. If the council approves, the project would avoid city building regulations and taxes, and oversight would instead come from Travis County. Villa Muse is asking the city to move quickly but hasn't set a deadline, says **Paul Alvarado-Dykstra**, the project's vice president of strategic development. "The creative industries in Texas are at a crossroads, and our creative talent pool is in jeopardy," he says of need for the project. "Each year, Texas is losing hundreds of millions of dollars in economic opportunity and thousands of jobs – just ask the Texas Film Commission – in the digital and creative world because we lack the incentives, training, and professional facilities necessary to attract, nurture, and retain our best and brightest."



Stop-Loss

MORE SXSW FILM TITLES ...

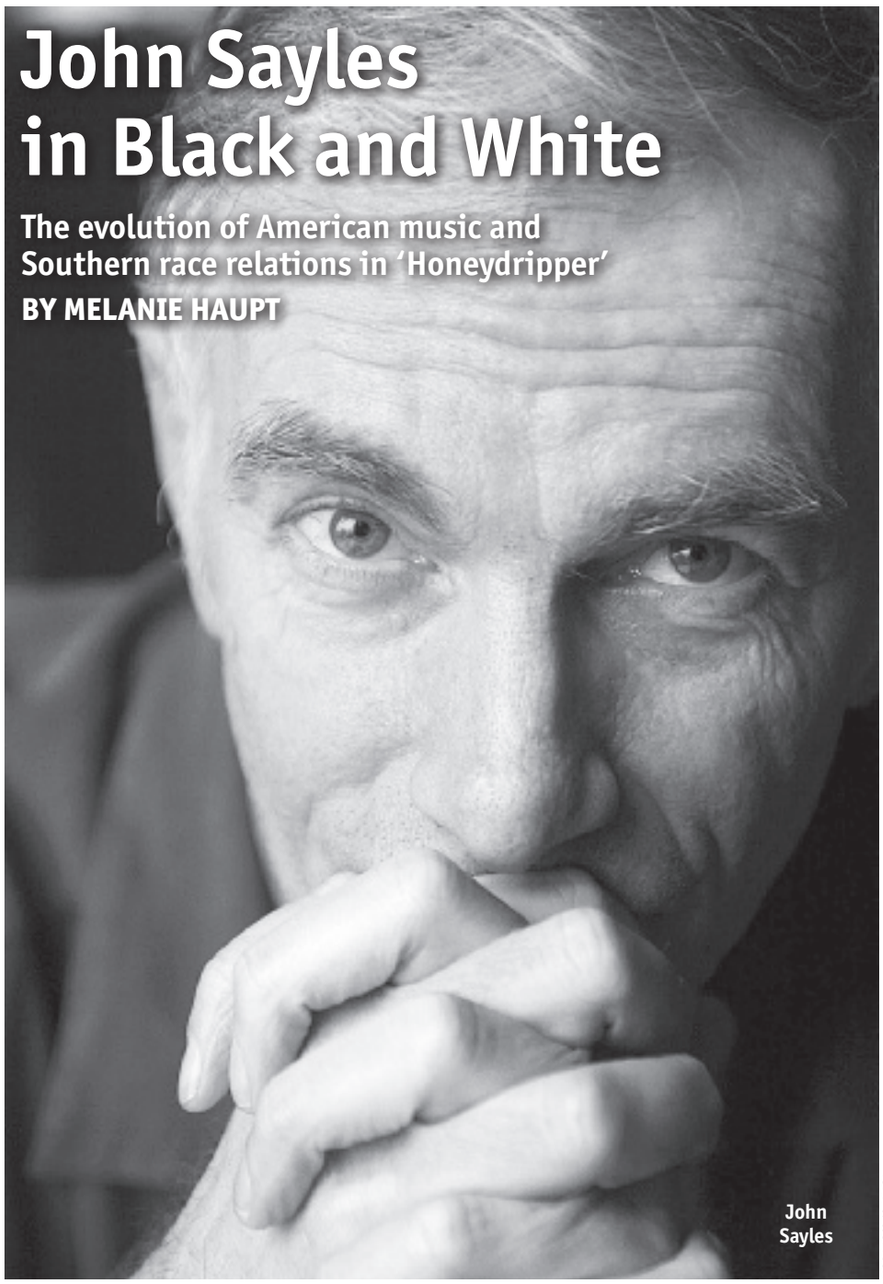
Stop-Loss lives! Look for the Austin-shot Iraq war film starring Ryan Phillippe at the upcoming South by Southwest Film Festival. A few other titles to tease you: *Mister Foe*, a Scottish coming-of-age story with **Jamie Bell**; *Love Songs* from French director Christophe Honoré; Genghis Khan biopic and recent foreign-film Oscar nom *Mongol*; and *Super High Me*, comic **Doug Benson**'s stoned version of *Super Size Me*.

Send tips to **filmnews@austinchronicle.com**.

John Sayles in Black and White

The evolution of American music and Southern race relations in 'Honeydripper'

BY MELANIE HAUPT



John Sayles

TODD V. WOLFSON

John Sayles on the fates of and stakes for musicians when faced with that seismic moment in musical history, the advent of rock & roll: "What about the people who didn't want to jump aboard, didn't especially like that music, or felt they were too old to be accepted playing that music? And what happened to the people who just couldn't do it for whatever reason? And what about the people who did? What did they do with it? The interesting people are those who don't necessarily create something from whole cloth, but they take little pieces of this, that, and the other thing and make something with it."

And that's how another signature Sayles film came into being. Taking bits and pieces from here and there and making magic.

Over the course of three decades and 16 feature films, Sayles has established himself as one of cinema's most intelligent, passionate, and engaged filmmakers. His oeuvre reveals critical engagement with labor struggles (*Matewan*), the Texas-Mexico border (*Lone Star*), international adoption (*Casa de los Babys*), and American politics (*Silver City*). Each of Sayles' films is intricately layered, requiring multiple viewings in order to appreciate fully the nuanced observations of class, race, gender, and language within his carefully constructed, finely drawn worlds. In his newest film, *Honeydripper*, music is the mechanism with which Sayles enacts his iconic interrogation of our culture, with both the evolution of American music and race relations in the South in his sights.

Honeydripper is set in 1950 in Harmony, Ala. Tyrone "Pinetop" Purvis (played by Danny Glover) is the owner of an ailing nightclub (the titular Honeydripper). Purvis is slowly being run out of business by the joint across the street, Ace of Spades, which lures the crowds with a shiny, new jukebox. In hock to the liquor man, the chicken man, and the electric company, Purvis grasps desperately at the opportunity to save his operation and sees his chance in the mysterious young drifter (Austin's own Gary Clark Jr., in his acting debut) who shows up in Harmony with a homemade electric guitar. Over the course of the story, Sayles not only provides a glimpse of the crossroads of American music but also of the burgeoning civil rights movement, all told from the perspective of a troubled black business owner struggling to maintain his grip on his life and set to an electrifying soundtrack.

Music – the way it is written, performed, and delivered – is always changing and always aided by technology. In only about a hundred years, we have gone from spreading music (and, by extension, our stories of ourselves) via the oral tradition to having the ability to listen to music streamed from all points through our computers. As a result of this local-gone-global phenomenon, there are several iterations of the inception of rock & roll floating around within the cultural consciousness: Elvis and that hypnotic pelvis, the British Invasion, Bob Dylan plugging in at the Newport Folk Festival. According to Sayles (and others), rock & roll was born in the Deep South and husbanded by practitioners of blues and swing; he points to two major shifts in the consumption of music in our country's history as the inspiration for *Honeydripper*.

"One was when radio came in, and that didn't really happen until after 1920. And that was a big deal; [you were hearing] all kinds of music you've never seen or heard," Sayles says. "All of a sudden you're not stuck in a holler in West Virginia; you're starting to hear people. Music started moving a little faster, fusing a little quicker. One of the next big [shifts] was when the solid-body electric guitar and the amp that goes with it showed up in 1950. That technological change meant that in about five years the guitar player stepped out in front of the piano and said, 'Hey, I'm the lead instrument now.'"

Clark, whose hungry, young drifter embodies the musical shift at the center of *Honeydripper*'s narrative, agrees that Sayles has captured a critical cusp in our country's social and cultural history. "I think the Fifties and Sixties are crucial because African-Americans started to stand up and rebel against injustice and express themselves. This progression was expressed in music on a wide platform, and someone decided to call it rock & roll. The pot was just stirred up a bit, and some beautiful music came out of it."

□

The mise-en-scène of a Sayles film goes far beyond the precise placement of a liquor service or the way a cafe wall is painted in a South Texas border town. The devil is beyond the details in these cinematic worlds; he's in the DNA. "For us, one of the big deals was the guitar, because Gary's character was supposed to have made his own guitar," Sayles explains. "We found a luthier and gave him the era and told him that this kid was a radio repairman, and he's going to make his own from a magazine article or something, and like most people, he's gonna cannibalize an acoustic. And he's not a great carpenter, so it's a pretty simple geometric thing."

The resulting instrument, crafted by New Jersey-based luthier Ted Crocker, is a solid block of mahogany designed to look like it was built by a World War II-era radio operator, complete with three exposed two-string pickups. It is a crude-looking piece of outsider art, but it plays beautifully, as exhibited by Clark when he performs live in the movie rather than pretending to play to a prerecorded guide track. (Interested parties can procure a custom version of the *Honeydripper* guitar via Crocker's website, **www.tedcrocker.com**, for $5,150.)

"It was the heaviest guitar I've ever picked up [or] played," says Clark. "I enjoyed playing it because of the simplicity. It is the electric guitar in its rawest form! No pretty paint, superfancy knobs, or pickups." In some ways, it appears that the primitive look and feel of the guitar helped Clark to inhabit his character. "I think back then the mentality was, well, it works, and that's all that matters. I tried not to compare it to my guitars and just go with it. That's what Sonny would have done."

This devotion to creating the most authentic world possible extends beyond the narrative's crucial prop. Maggie Renzi, Sayles' longtime production and domestic partner, describes the process of piecing together the microcosm of Harmony, Ala. "Once John's written the script and by the time we come to a location, we're starting to get more information from more people," she says. "For example, the art department started looking for cars, and they said that there wouldn't have been any personal cars any more recent than 1942 because of World War II. And this is rural; there are not very many upper-middle-class people, so there would be mostly work vehicles."

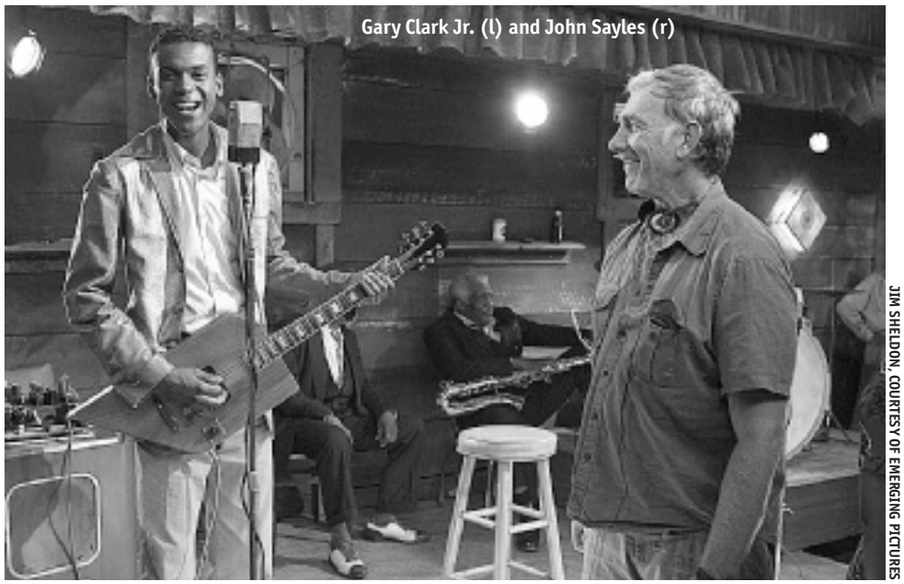
And, as evidenced by the character of Miss Nadine (Davenia McFadden), the women in 1950 rural Alabama were wizards with the sewing machine. "Hope Hanafin, our costume designer, explained that the clothes would be high fashion but wouldn't be off the rack," Renzi continues. "These women would know how to make them; they'd know what the fashion was and scratch together whatever fashion they needed to and make something up for Saturday night, because it was a stiff competition."

Attention to detail to such microscopic levels aids everyone from the moviegoer to the actors on the set. "It helps the audience feel like they've entered a world that's not quite the world we live in today," says Sayles. "If you do it well enough, they kind of forget that it's a movie and that people made these decisions. And I also think it helps the actors. There are a lot of actors that just can't wait to get their hands on the props or can't wait to get their clothes on. The car that they're driving really does it for them, and they say, 'Okay, I know who I am now; I know where I am.'"

For Clark, who has logged many years on the clubs and stages of Austin, the scope of Sayles' knowledge helped ease him into the alien world of acting. "I just like hanging out with John. He knows so much about *everything*. He would get into these conversations from politics to bird-mating habits to old basketball stats to Big Mama Thornton. I was amazed and drawn to him. He's a huge fountain of knowledge, and I just try to soak up as much as possible. With that, I found it easy to trust him as director because he has done his research and knows what he's talking about."

□

Sayles' attention to detail and the depth and breadth of the research that goes into crafting such a narrative quite possibly set the viewer up to miss truly rich sociocultural references, if they're not paying attention. Stephen Holden, writing for *The New York Times*, says, "[Sayles] is so uncomfortable writing dialogue in an old-



Gary Clark Jr. (l) and John Sayles (r)

JIM SHELDON, COURTESY OF EMERGING PICTURES

"I think the Fifties and Sixties are crucial because African-Americans started to stand up and rebel against injustice and express themselves. This progression was expressed in music on a wide platform, and someone decided to call it rock & roll. The pot was just stirred up a bit, and some beautiful music came out of it." – Gary Clark Jr.

time Southern argot that the conversations in *Honeydripper* rarely settle into the easy, colorfully idiomatic flow that has always been a hallmark of Southern speech." However, if Holden weren't so occupied by what he perceives as a missed opportunity to sustain stereotypical representations of "Southern" (read: black) speech, he might have picked up on a striking reference to a prominent hero myth of African-American culture.

The folktale of Stagolee dates back to the late 19th century, when St. Louis cabdriver Lee Shelton shot a man in a barroom brawl in a conflict over a hat. The 1895 event was immortalized in blues and has been handed down in blues, folk, funk, and rock music (most notably by Mississippi John Hurt, but also Bob Dylan, Woody Guthrie, Ike Turner, the Isley Brothers, and Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds) and toast poems and is often credited as the inspirational figure of gangsta rap. In short, Stagolee is a badass black man, expert at doing the dozens, and caring little for the white man's rules. In *The Afrocentric Idea*, Molefi Asante, the pre-eminent scholar in African studies, writes, "Stagolee represents the radical impulse to challenge an authority that seeks to repress freedom, improvisation, and harmony."

Sayles alludes to the Stagolee myth via Pinetop Purvis, from the flashbacks to his near-mortal conflict with the guitarist in his own past to the oracle Possum's (Keb' Mo') version of the blues song. Even though he resists the narrative of Stagolee when Possum serenades him with it, brushing it off with, "I hate that song," Purvis himself is a reluctant Stagolee, invoking what Asante terms the rhetoric of resistance. "Tyrone is a guy who has a certain status as the guy who runs this club," explains Sayles. "He's not fighting to save that building, he could rent another building. He's an African-American man in the Deep South in 1950 who's his own man, and that's what he's fighting to save. He's fighting for that position. Somehow he senses that it's important not just to him but also that it's important to his community that there is someone like him and Maceo [Charles S. Dutton] who are outside the white people's sphere and seem to be their own men."

Clark sees a morality tale of sorts in Sayles' portrayal of the myth. "I thought that the parallels between the myth and Tyrone Purvis and Possum were brilliant," he says. "Ego, pride, denial, and acceptance are a huge factor in society and the way we go about our everyday lives. I thought it was really eye-opening how John subtly depicts this in the way Tyrone and Possum interact."

With this gesture toward the archetype, Sayles himself participates in the same fluidity of music he documents in *Honeydripper*, enacting the same forward- and backward-looking protean ethos of American music, from the outdated juke-joint blues of Bertha Mae (played by Mable John, former backup singer for Ray Charles and sister to R&B star Little Willie John) to the squalling birth of rock & roll, bursting into the world with the glint of rap in its eye. Boundaries and labels be damned.

□

A common trope among Sayles' scripts is the idea of a border, a line of demarcation. On either side of these arbitrarily drawn lines are characters whose arcs rely upon a realization (ours and theirs) that the lines are indeed arbitrary and that life itself is colored primarily in varying shades of gray. For example, Buddy Deeds (Matthew McConaughey), the sainted sheriff in *Lone Star*, is set in stark opposition to the vicious, murdering Charlie Wade (Kris Kristofferson), yet both men are corrupt to the core. In putting moral absolutes in conversation with each other, Sayles troubles the arbitrary binaries of the everyday, revealing them as simply rhetorical inventions rather than concrete realities.

"I'm always interested in what are the things that we allow to separate us. In the case of segregation in the South, those laws didn't exist unless somebody was going to cross the line," he says. "Laws in the South, if you read history, got more repressive because people transgressed them. All those Jim Crow laws came from someplace, which was that white and black people were getting together. That's always interesting to me, those people that figure out that [a particular] law is bullshit and even at some risk [will] cross it."

Take, for example, Purvis, who lies, cheats, and steals yet remains sympathetic through the course of the movie. Meanwhile, a Pentecostal preacher has the ear of Purvis' wife, Delilah (Lisa Gay Hamilton), instructing her that she's either with God or with the devil; ain't no in-between. Delilah's arc is complete when she realizes that where the Lord is telling her to be is by Tyrone's side. Delilah can still come back to the church, but she realizes that sometimes in between – at Tyrone's side at the Honeydripper – is where the Lord wants her to be, and she can move gracefully between those two worlds.

White/black, rich/poor, male/female. These are some of the binaries Sayles explores in *Honeydripper*, deconstructing them and exposing the hierarchies within and among them. Such complexity makes for masterful filmmaking, albeit with somewhat limited appeal. In a cinematic landscape inundated with torture porn, million-dollar explosions, rubbery fat suits, and dim-witted rom-coms, a John Sayles film is a rare treasure: quiet, intelligent, challenging, and rooted in a deep love of a deeply flawed culture. Sayles' appreciation for the subtleties of gray is, in a way, both absolution and celebration, and *Honeydripper* beautifully encapsulates those extremes. ■

Honeydripper *opens in Austin on Friday, Feb. 1. See Film Listing, p.78, for showtimes and review.*

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TV EYE

It's Raining Shows

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Television lives!

Sort of. This week's return of ***Lost*** (ABC), the premieres of ***In Treatment*** (HBO), ***Eli Stone*** (ABC), and ***Breaking Bad*** (AMC), as well as last Sunday's broadcast of the Screen Actors Guild Awards ceremony almost made it seem like business as usual on the small screen. The writers' strike continues, but the Writers Guild of America gave a pass to the SAG because they've been such strong allies. And more premieres are in store, rolling out incrementally in February and March.

One of the most anticipated returns is ***Jericho*** (CBS), which premieres Feb. 12 at 9pm. What a strange journey it's been for this postapocalyptic drama. First canceled, then resurrected thanks to a massive fan drive, it returns to viewers eager to find out who will win the Jericho-New Bern battle. Missed the first season? Watch it online at **www.cbs.com/primetime/jericho**.

Other premieres and returns include:

The New Adventures of Old Christine (CBS), Monday, Feb. 4, at 8:30pm. Back for its third season, Christine (**Julia Louis-Dreyfus**) is still getting used to life as a single mom.

Welcome to the Captain (CBS), Monday, Feb. 4, at 7:30pm. A young writer (played by Fran Kranz) moves into a historic Hollywood apartment building that houses kooky characters.

Lipstick Jungle (NBC), Thursday, Feb. 7, at 9pm. Based on the novel by *Sex and the City* scribe **Candace Bushnell**, *Lipstick Jungle* follows three high-powered women living in and working in New York. Does that sound suspiciously like *SATC*? No, the creators say. Instead of searching for their Mr. Big (the name of Carrie Bradshaw's commitment-averse love interest in *SATC*), the women in *Lipstick* (Kim Raver, Brooke Shields, Lindsay Price) *are* Big.



The floodgates are opening with a whole host of returning shows and premieres, including NBC's *Lipstick Jungle*.

31 Days of Oscar (TCM), Feb. 1-March 2. The cable network continues its annual countdown to the Academy Awards presentation, featuring Oscar-winning films and actors. Check local listings.

The Whitest Kids U' Know (IFC) returns for a new season on Sunday, Feb. 10, at 10pm, this time on IFC (the sketch-comedy team first appeared on YouTube, then on cable netlet Fuse). Being on IFC should bring them some cred, right? Well, with skits titled "Sam's Nut," "Fart Diner," "Blue Whale Dick," and "Elephant Balls," you decide.

In the midst of these series returns and premieres is a small gem, Rick Cleveland's ***My Buddy Bill*** (Comedy Central), which airs Thursday, Feb. 7, at 11pm. *My Buddy Bill* falls under Comedy Central's original stand-up tent, but Cleveland's show is a welcome departure. A former writer for *The West Wing* and *Six Feet Under*, Cleveland is no comedian, but he does know how to tell a good story; the one he tells here is about his chance encounter and unexpected friendship with former President **Bill Clinton**.

Compared to the late, great monologist **Spalding Gray** (by whom Cleveland is obviously influenced) or comedian **Kathy Griffin** (who's made a career dishing on Hollywood royalty), Cleveland lacks stage presence. Gray needed nothing more than a table, a glass of water, a map, and a pointer for props. Griffin's appeal is in her bubbly, barbed delivery. Cleveland is not a performer, so his movements onstage appear stiffly choreographed. Still, there's something enormously appealing about Cleveland. His goal is to tell his story of a regular guy and his dog who made friends with another regular guy and his dog – only the second regular guy happens to be the onetime leader of the free world.

Perhaps out of respect for the Clintons, or fear – if Cleveland's experiences with Hillary and her steel backbone don't convince you she could be president of the United States, I don't know what will – Cleveland's monologue veers close to the edge but doesn't reveal anything about the Clintons that viewers couldn't have figured out on their own. Cleveland doesn't aim for the self-consciously high-minded (which Gray's critics often complained of), and he's not as hipsterish as **Ira Glass** (on Showtime's *This American Life*). *My Buddy Bill* is closer to **Garrison Keillor** (*A Prairie Home Companion*), without the tongue-in-cheek yuks and hayseed antics. Cleveland is as mild as warm milk. And maybe because everyone else out there is aiming for the tart or droll, this cup of milk is curiously refreshing.

Call Board

Austin's Public Access Community Television seeks poets and spoken-word artists for their annual EXSE Spoken Word broadcast during National Poetry Month. Applications are due April 13. Go to **www.pactaustin.org** or call 478-8600 x10 for more information.

What are your "Reflections on Life in Central Texas"? Local PBS affiliate KLRU wants you to pick up your camera and capture them for their ongoing series ***Docubloggers***. Submission deadline is Feb. 15. Go to **www.docubloggers.org** for more information.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at **tveye@austinchronicle.com**.

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OFF THE RECORD music news

BY AUSTIN POWELL



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Kashmere High School Stage Band

RANDOM PLAY

Tina Marsh went all out during her performance last Thursday at **Spazio**, benefiting **Planned Living Assistance Network of Central Texas**, so much so that the local jazz queen and **Creative Opportunity Orchestra** founder woke up in terrible pain at 4am the following morning. Doctors informed Marsh that her cancer had returned and metastasized to other parts of her body. She's currently undergoing radiation treatment. Financial donations can be made to **Sally Jacques** care of **Blue Lapis Light** at PO Box 1821, Austin, TX 78767.

A co-owner/operator of spoken-word and signer-songwriter hotbed **Chicago House**, **Glynda Renee Cox** (née **Martin**) died of an apparent heart attack Sunday, Jan. 20. She was 64. A public remembrance celebration is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 10, 4-8pm, at **Jovita's**. See Arts, p.34, for more details.

Former **Scratch Acid** screamer **David Yow** suffered a collapsed lung following a show at Pittsburgh's **Andy Warhol Museum** on Friday with his latest noise outfit, **Qui**. He's expected to make a full recovery.

More than three decades after their graduation, 25 former members of Houston's legendary **Kashmere High School Stage Band** are reuniting Friday at their old stomping grounds to pay tribute to their 92-year-old mentor and bandleader, **Conrad "Prof" O. Johnson**. The evening is being overseen by **Eothen Alapatt**, general manager of **Stones Throw** and **Now-Again Records**, which issued Kashmere's *Texas Thunder Soul 1968-1974* ("Phases and Stages," Aug. 25, 2006).

A quick moment of shameless self-promotion: OTR is now the host of ***The Next Big Thing*** on **101X**, spinning four hours of new and local music every Sunday night beginning at 6pm. Tune in this week to hear fresh cuts from **White Denim**, **Ghostland Observatory**, **Vampire Weekend**, the **Gutter Twins**, **Hot Chip**, and much more.

ROKKERVIL CITY

In what's already been dubbed "**Rokkervil**," **Okkervil River** (pictured) are headlining the **2007-08 Austin Music Awards**, scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, at the **Austin Music Hall**, alongside **Roky Erickson**. With Roky hot to guest with **Will Sheff**'s crew, it should be the wildest collaboration since **Mudhoney** and **Jimmie Dale Gilmore**. Credit former *Chronicle* music newsman **Chris Gray** with the brainstorm. "Will Sheff was really into the idea," relays AMA director **Margaret Moser**, "though I have no idea what songs they're going to do." Here's hoping the *Black Sheep Boy*s tackle "I Walked With a Zombie." Also confirmed for the evening is a **Gary Clark Jr.** showcase and a six-string salute to **Walter Hyatt** led by **David Ball** of **Uncle Walt's Band**. Stay tuned.



MARY SLEDD



NATHAN JENSEN

BRINGING SEXY BACK

First **Justin Timberlake** sang a duet with **Reba McEntire**. Now he's co-producing an album with **Charlie Sexton**. Need proof? Try **YouTube** (**www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-4LFvkcj8c**). "We're both great with beats but in different ways," says Sexton. The two songwriters were working on an album by **Matt Morris**, the second artist signed to Timberlake's **Interscope** imprint, that features contributions from **Ephraim Owens**, **Tosca Strings**, and **Patty Griffin**.

DAY-O

The King of Calypso, **Harry Belafonte**, delivered the keynote address for the **Martin Luther King Jr.** celebration at the **Riverbend Centre** last Saturday night. The 80-year-old activist and entertainer, best known for "Day-O," "Jamaica Farewell," and ***Beetlejuice*** chorus line "Jump in the Line," spoke nonstop – without notes – for 45 riveting minutes, at one point recalling the last conversation he had in person with King. "I'm afraid we're integrating into a burning house," the civil rights leader warned Belafonte. Implored as to what people should then do, Dr. King's response remains pertinent still today: "We're going to have to become firemen."



GARY MILLER

JIGSAW FALLING INTO PLACE

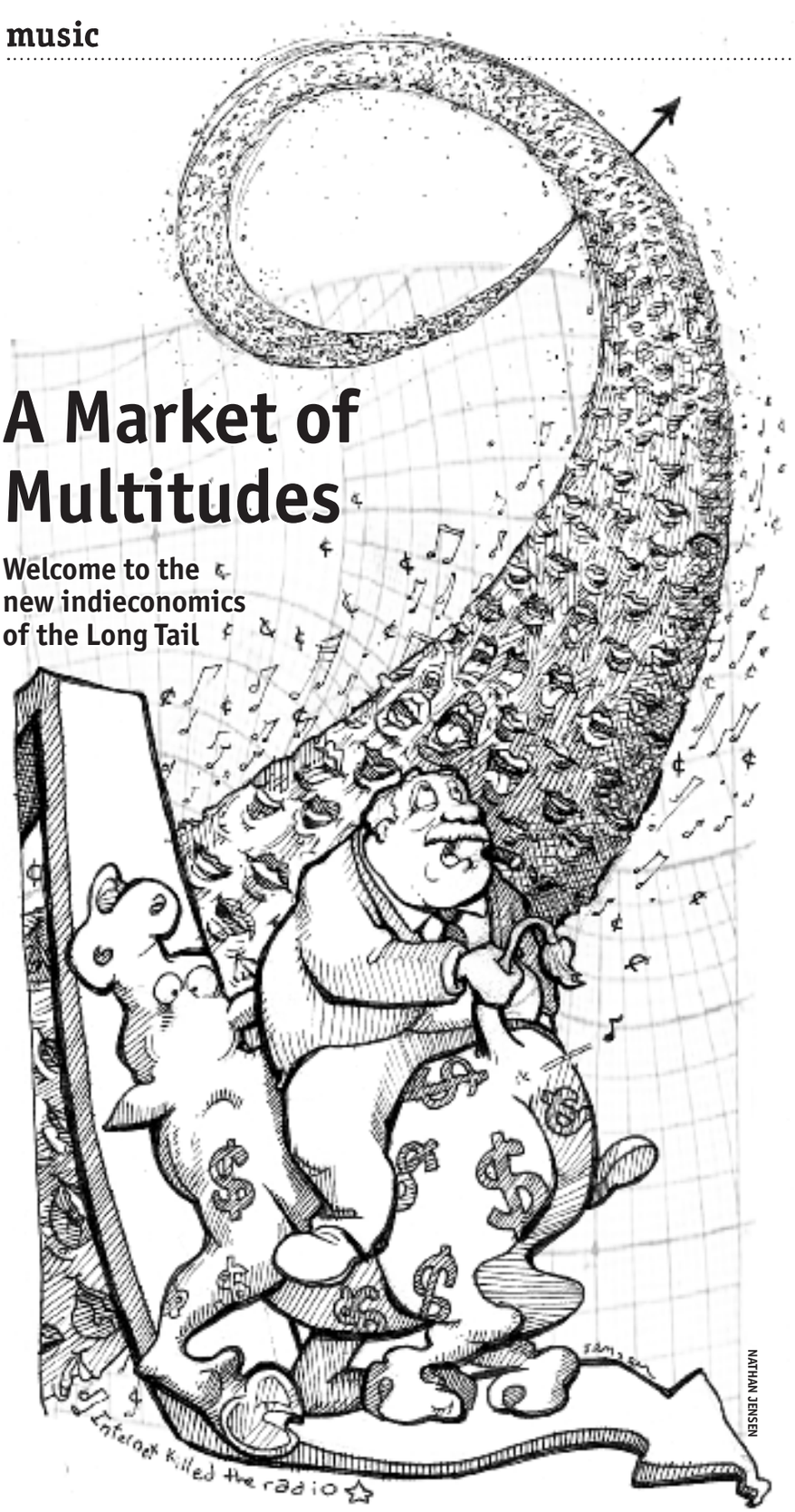
Local voltaic dance rockers **Electric Touch** managed to secure a spot at the **2008 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival**, April 25-27 in Indio, Calif., without so much as an album to their name. Event organizers **Goldenvoice** announced plans for an additional festival last week, **All Points West**, at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, Aug. 8-10, the same weekend as and a stone's throw away from **C3 Presents**' inaugural **Vineland Music Festival**. With Radiohead headlining All Points West and the **Virgin Festival** likely taking place concurrently in Baltimore, C3 decided to delay Vineland's launch until 2009, but don't be surprised if **Thom Yorke** and company make an appearance at C3's **Lollapalooza**, Aug. 1-3, at Chicago's Grant Park. In other festival news, a lawsuit was filed on Tuesday on behalf of **Brown Distributing Co.** and its four employees who were severely burned at the 2007 **Austin City Limits Music Festival** (see "Off the Record" Sept. 21, 2007) against New Braunfels' **Evergreen RV Center** and other entities allegedly responsible for the propane malfunction.

BURNT OUT

The lingering stench of smoke outside **KOOP Radio** on Monday afternoon underscored feelings of shock and confusion following the **Austin Fire Department**'s **Arson Investigations**' announcement that **Paul Webster Feinstein** had been arrested in connection with the Jan. 5 fire that caused an estimated $300,000 in damages. A former KOOP volunteer and host of the jazz program *Mellow Down Easy*, Feinstein, who confessed to the crime, left the station in December after applying for a position as development director in late October and an unrelated dispute with another programmer regarding the music being loaded into the digital library. He faces two to 20 years in prison and a fine upward of $10,000 if convicted. "I'm a bit worried about morale," admitted KOOP President **Andrew Dickens**, standing amidst the wreckage. "We need to understand what happened here." KOOP returned to the airwaves last Friday, broadcasting from a studio space donated by **Entercom Communications**. A number of benefits are already in progress, including ***Soundcheck*** magazine's Monday night residency at the **Beauty Bar** and the Mutants Ball at **Beerland** Feb. 16, featuring the **Pataphysics**, **Alright Tonight**, and the **Carrots**. "We're moving forward and continuing to provide a voice not heard in mainstream media," said Executive Director **Kim McCarson**, who hopes to return to the KOOP studios on Airport Boulevard in about three months. "We're going to clean up and recover from this."

A Market of Multitudes

Welcome to the new indieconomics of the Long Tail



BY DOUG FREEMAN

Ex·po·sured (as defined by White Denim): (ĕk-spō'zhərd) verb. "Performing for the mere possibility of future gain or additional opportunities for exposure."

White Denim is freezing their collective ass off. The thermometer outside reads minus 1 and doesn't even register the ungodly windchill. Wisconsin in the middle of winter is the last place three Austin boys want to be, but for a band barely more than a year old, a stint opening for the Walkmen and doing radio shows across the Midwest can't be passed up. In fact, the band has coined a term for it.

"Everything's a little more 'exposure,'" laughs Denim drummer Josh Block by phone from Milwaukee. "Especially right now and the environment we're in, that word always shows up: 'It will be great exposure for you.'"

After ransacking Red River last year in a blog-buzzed fury, the raucous trio has been well "exposured." Now, as the group prepares their debut LP for release in early March, White Denim is suddenly being forced to navigate the open tundra of the new music marketplace, an economy still chipping at the ice of a technological blizzard.

With CD and major labels in a deep freeze, alternative business models for the industry are beginning to take shape in the drift. Artists are discovering new avenues of support, and bands like White Denim are at the forefront of innovative approaches that are redefining the music business.

Last fall, the band licensed four songs to RCRD LBL, an ad-supported online label that offers free downloads on their site (**www.rcrdlbl.com**). In addition to paying artists for their material, RCRD LBL in turn works to license the songs to other companies. Like the most promising new business strategies, RCRD LBL's approach combines elements of what has proven successful in the digital marketplace: free downloads, ad-supported revenue for artists, and the possibility of further exposure and revenue through licensing to media sources like television, film, and video games.

"The selling point for us was that it's free-released," acknowledges Block. "If they were charging [fans] for [the songs], we definitely would have thought twice. I can see a lot of people moving in that direction – maybe not that exact model, but that direction. It's pretty obvious with corporate involvement getting bigger these days and being in the scene. I don't know if it's good or bad, but anything that supports music, I think, is good when it comes down to it."

Even more indicative of the new musical landscape is the effort behind White Denim's yet-to-be-titled album. Transmission Entertainment, a local booking and events venture launched last summer, is providing financial backing for the band, helping them buy a touring van and covering recording costs.

"The idea is to use our existing resources to help out in whatever way we can," explains Transmission partner and Mohawk owner James Moody via e-mail. "We believe that White Denim is better than stolen cheesecake, so we put our money where our mouth is. It was never in the 'business plan' for Transmission to take on bands as their own, and that's probably why we only work with one. We are not a record label, nor do we plan to be. This is just what happens when you give music nerds like us the keys to a business."

"It's pretty much a community thing," offers Block. "They're going to be sitting there with us brainstorming about what we can actually do and what's possible. There are no actual defined roles for anyone involved, but just kind of what needs to be done and who has the ability to do it, whether it's us as individuals or a band or someone individually within Transmission. They can be honest about what they can and can't do, and we can be honest about what we can and can't do."

White Denim's arrangement with Transmission mirrors the increasingly blurred relationships and roles within the new unstructured musical economy. As traditional frameworks erode, diverse structures are being erected from the rubble. The keys to the kingdom have passed from major labels to the fans themselves, who are supporting artists directly through downloads and live shows. Being exposured is no longer about playing in front of the right label rep but rather about getting your music to the widest possible audience in a world where a half-million people Googling "song in Old Navy commercial" is more powerful than regular radio rotation.

Welcome to the new indieconomics of the Long Tail.



Long Tail economics finds success where traditional industry registered failure. In the digital economy, lower volume sales of a large number of items rivals the higher numbers sale of only a few hits.

Dark-Sided Computer Mouth

In his 2006 book, *The Long Tail: Why the Future of Business Is Selling Less of More*, Chris Anderson, editor-in-chief of *Wired* magazine, outlines the emerging virtual economy. Citing sales results from online companies such as Amazon, iTunes, and Netflix, Anderson discovered that given unlimited storage capacity, the profit scale is nearly turned on its head. Whereas the industry was previously supported by the overwhelming sale of only a few hit CDs, the accrued profit of a large volume of limited-sale items is now more lucrative than high-profile blockbusters.

"Where the economics of traditional retail ran out of steam, the economics of online retail kept going," writes Anderson. "The onesies and twosies were still only selling in small numbers, but there were so, so many of them that in aggregate they added up to big business."

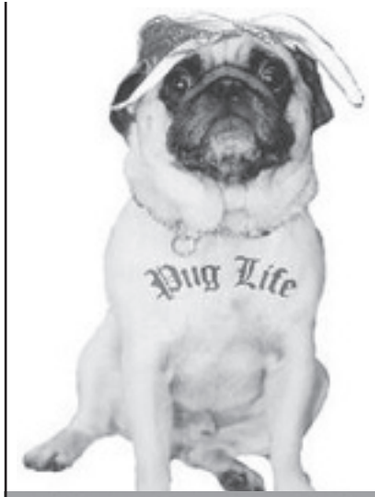
Traditional music economics is still characterized by the Pareto principle, or the 80/20 rule, which recognizes that 80% of sales comes from only 20% of products. In other words, companies from Wal-Mart to Waterloo Records are supported by large volume sales of only a few items. This is the hit-driven economy that has dominated the record industry since the beginning, allowing labels to pay artists ridiculous sums on speculation, only to drop them after one or two "moderately" selling albums.

Physical retailers can support only limited product, so high-selling items continue to stock shelves. Likewise, consumers have long had few available choices, the marketplace driven by a top-down strategy; labels flood the

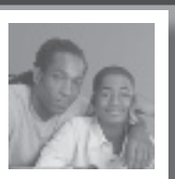
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bottlenecked outlets of radio and retail dictating what the public hears and can purchase.

Long Tail economics, however, finds success where traditional industry registered failure. In the digital economy, lower volume sales of a large number of items rivals the higher numbers sale of only a few hits. Adding to the profit share of virtual retailers is the fact that the Long Tail extends almost indefinitely. Given a global marketplace and easy access, every item will find a buyer, and more frequently than anyone anticipated.

As Anderson explains, "That mass of niches has always existed, but as the cost of reaching it falls – consumers finding niche products and niche products finding consumers – it's suddenly becoming a cultural and economic force to be reckoned with."

The new economy doesn't destroy the viability of hits, but it does inevitably diminish their returns as fans are able to find music that better suits their individual tastes. It allows for true democratization of the industry with discretion seized by the public, evidenced in the current cultural influence of small-scale indie bands. For every newly sprung White Denim along Red River, there's a teenage hipster-in-waiting searching for that band's music.

"For a generation of customers used to doing their buying research via search engine, a company's brand is not what the company says it is, but what Google says it is," concludes Anderson. "The new tastemakers are us."

The Long Tail applies to nearly all aspects of our contemporary lives, from personal photos (Flickr) to politics (Ron Paul). It's not simply an economic theory but rather the characterization of a culture of abundance as opposed to one of scarcity. With more choice and easier access, consumers find material that's most relevant to them individually.

"There's still demand for big cultural buckets, but they're no longer the only market," proffers Anderson. "The hits now compete with an infinite number of niche markets, of any size. And consumers are increasingly favoring the one with the most choice. The era of one-size-fits-all is ending, and in its place is something new, a market of multitudes."

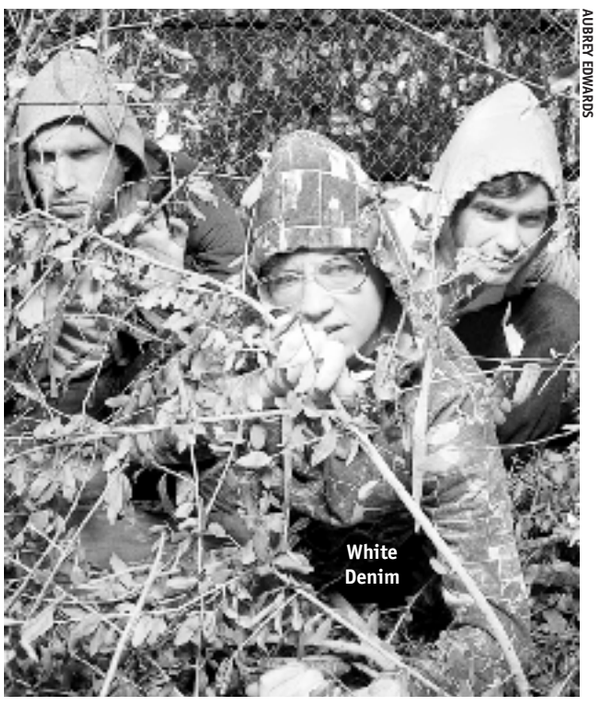
Viral Video Killed the Radio Star

Rock & roll was born of a hit-driven, superstar system. Labels manufactured as many formulaic acts and Brill Building singles as could flood the limited channels of exposure. When rare, public-driven revolts of taste occurred – Elvis, the Beatles, Nirvana – the music industry jumped aboard the proverbial bandwagon and continued undaunted.

The model has held for the past half-century, and for all its egregious exploitation of artists and the public, it's still difficult to imagine popular music and the recording industry developing without the centralized control of major label monopolies. Yet like any concentrated power structure, whether governmental or economic, its influence was maintained through scarcity and dictating demand.

The shortsightedness of major labels today lies in their belief that the new business model for music will emerge as a similarly monolithic system that has always dominated the industry. Though some models, like Live Nation's 360 deals – where label, promoter, and management are all one – will take precedent in the new economic landscape, the "market of multitudes" demands more diverse, unique approaches. Radiohead may be able to successfully self-release albums online, but few acts are capable of such digital success and are still at the mercy of an established infrastructure for physical distribution. Labels, however, aren't eager to embrace that diminished business role.

Though the new indieconomics levels the playing field for artists somewhat, it doesn't translate to acts suddenly being capable of reaching unmitigated success. If anything, the saturation of music competing for limited attention spans requires artists to work harder to connect with their potential fans. The rock-star fantasy of big-label money fueling nights passed with hookers and an eightball is more distant than ever.



AUBREY EDWARDS

Though the new indieconomics levels the playing field for artists somewhat, it doesn't translate to acts suddenly being capable of reaching unmitigated success.

For the new musical economy, this means both artists and fans must negotiate a vast frontier to connect. The market is suddenly global, and as fans find niche channels that cater to their interests through online blogs, forums, and aggregators, artists can use those outlets to expand their base of exposure. With digital music stores and software such as Snocap or the locally developed IndieKazoo, which allow acts to sell downloads directly from their websites and MySpace pages, musicians can make money from the most distant markets with virtually no overhead.

The key for artists is taking advantage of every possible outlet of exposure. Labels can still provide invaluable business experience, but their usefulness is slowly shifting toward management and distribution capabilities. Artists must, in one way or another, account for their own careers. Yes, it's a job, but the tools are available, and the possibilities are wide open.

Let's Talk About It

"We're set up to where we don't have to do a label thing," offers Thomas Turner, the beat and business mastermind of Austin's Ghostland Observatory, which releases its third album, *Robotique Majestique*, on the drummer's Trashy Moped imprint Feb. 29. "We have a good distribution deal that we just landed, and I just hired a private marketing firm to handle a lot of the communications. So I've basically hired an infrastructure to help me run the label the same way a major label would. We're pretty much set up to do just about anything that a major label would provide for a newly signed act."

Ghostland's DIY success may be an anomaly, but it reflects the trend. With artists beginning to consider labels not as encompassing entities but simply as another cog in the patchwork business wheels they construct, both major and indie imprints have become an avenue of calculated recourse rather than necessity. Artist conglomerates like Austin's Autobus Records ("Collective Wisdom," May 11, 2007) or financial backing from companies like Transmission can easily supplant labels' traditional roles.

"We're not seeking out labels, and what labels have talked to us really aren't offering anything we can't do for ourselves here in the States, at the moment as least," says White Denim's Block. "We've been talking to labels in the UK, though, because that's a territory we don't have down already. We're looking at labels as experienced business guys who already know the landscape, and Europe is one that we're definitely not familiar with."

Transmission's support of White Denim isn't without local precedent, either. The event agency C3 Presents, responsible for the Austin City Limits Music Festival and Lollapalooza, as well as booking Stubb's and Emo's, also manages a small roster of artists. Among their clients is local pop quintet What Made Milwaukee Famous, which finally sees the release of a sophomore effort, *What Doesn't Kill Us*, in March through indie imprint Barsuk.

The Long Tail of indieconomics has created a new measure of success within the industry, one that curbs traditional rock & roll iconization and excess into a more realistic standard but also one that's much more accessible for both artists and fans.

"With [the music industry] going downhill, bands like us get heard a lot easier, a lot more now than we would have when everyone's ambitions was to get on a major," says Block. "But still, if you're not 18 and you don't have your parents' house to go back to, you need a little help. That's where I see community-based businesses really coming into play, people like Transmission who take an interest.

"It's not the wisest investment, you know, so they've got to be doing it for a different reason," he laughs. "It's pretty obvious these days that there are better things to put your money into. The only reason people would help out a band is because they like them." ■

The Death of DRM

The recent decision of the Big Four major labels to forego embedding digital rights management restrictions into their online catalogs appears to be a step forward for the music industry. For years, labels have demanded copy-protection safeguards in licensing their music to online retailers. Proponents of new nonproprietary media Web standards have heralded the death of DRM as a sign that the majors have conceded to public demand for downloads compatible with all players and with no limits on their reproduction.

The reality of the move, however, is that the labels have discarded DRM because it created a rival monopoly for iTunes, which currently controls about 80% of the digital download market. Licensing DRM-free material to the newly launched Amazon.com digital music store and other would-be competitors is merely the Recording Industry Association of America trying to flex their quickly atrophying muscles in the face of Steve Jobs – a disturbing image on any number of levels.

Nevertheless, in abandoning DRM, the majors are hardly foregoing user-tracking software. Microsoft, smelling iBlood, has already patented an ominously named "stealthy audio watermarking" for MP3s in hopes of bedding the Big Four to assert its Zune digital player as the next-generation iPod. The watermarks don't restrict use of downloaded files but do embed unique signatures that can be traced back to the content producer, allowing illegally shared files to be tagged to the original purchaser. Currently, Microsoft has not disclosed how the technology will be employed.

While the RIAA's suits against unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material are legally justified, the policy highlights the industry's failure to recognize the bigger picture. Attacking fans as a defense strategy misses the demands and opportunities of the new digital marketplace, clinging to outdated notions rather than nurturing innovation through new open standards. Until the remaining major labels are forced to admit their proprietary stranglehold is no longer an effective business model and start developing strategies for taking advantage of the Web's open economics, their relevance and reputation will only continue to marginalize.

– D.F.

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VAN HALEN

AT&T Center, San Antonio, Jan. 24

Sincerity doesn't exactly define hard rock, but last Thursday night at San Antonio's rafters-topped AT&T Center, Van Halen unleashed the love. "We're in Texas!" exclaimed the Pasadena, Calif., quartet's original frontman, David Lee Roth, at the start of a two-hour blast back to 1978-1984. Guitarist Eddie Van Halen shook Roth's hand; walked back to the drum riser and clasped fingers with his older brother, Alex; then planted a big ol' smooch on the plump, acne-sieged cheek of his 16-year-old son, Wolfgang, forced fill-in for the group's original bassist Michael Anthony. "I'm the One," harmony-boosted electric vaudeville from Van Halen's seminal, hair-raising debut, then began the toppling of three-minute pop dominoes shot through Eddie's fission riffs: "Romeo Delight," second LP early trifecta "Somebody Get Me a Doctor," "Beautiful Girls," and "Dance the Night Away." Van Halen's Japanese sci-fi monster guitar on "Atomic Punk" rousted 1970s FM muscle rock like underground nuclear testing. Roth's eroded vocal range detracted not one horn held high from his revolving Vegas wardrobe, line of hats, and 1,000% delivery effort and equally high-watt grin. No one was happier about Roth's reunion with the Van Halens at the 20-year mark than Roth himself. His acoustic intro to "Ice Cream Man" recalled the suspiciously overcoiffed Southern Californian's teen hood – from which an entire scene sprang on L.A.'s notorious Sunset Strip – with endearing sentimentality. Three or four melodic blunders ("Little Guitars," set closer "Ain't Talkin' 'Bout Love") couldn't match the earnest delivery of "I'll Wait" or prize surprise of "Little Dreamer." Roth's huge red flag waving on sole encore "Jump" pledged 1984 with carefree nostalgia. *– Raoul Hernandez*



GARY MILLER



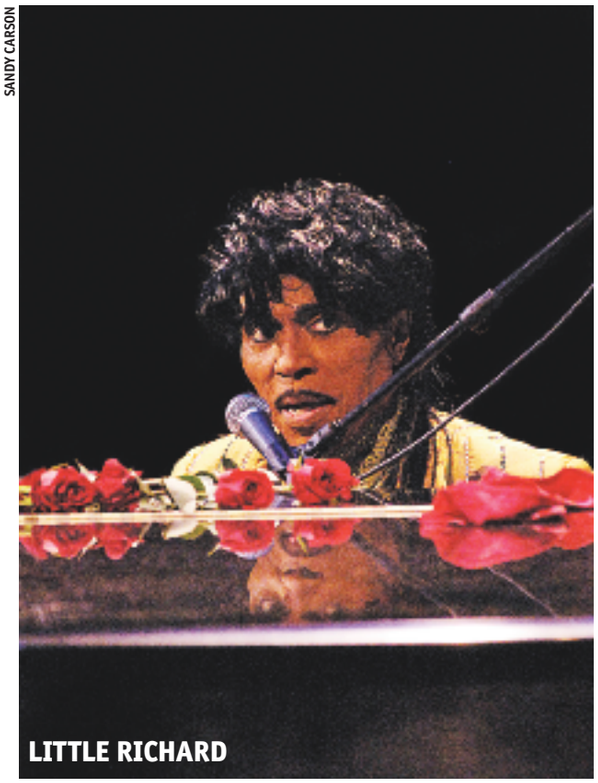
SHELLEY HIAM

SHARON JONES & THE DAP-KINGS

Antone's, Jan. 26

Showmanship, while not what it used to be, isn't dead. Slightly after 10:30pm Saturday night at Antone's, the Dap-Kings filed onstage in suits, eight parts of a well-oiled machine, and began warming up the engine. Three songs later, Jones appeared in a white fringed dress and strappy gold heels, ready to turn on a sold-out throng. A Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings show is about just that, and Jones is the consummate show woman. "Let me strut," she commanded, as the threepiece horn section propelled her brick-house frame across the stage. This blur of fringe and gold accented the entire, almost two-hour hip-shaking set list, culled largely from 2005's *Naturally* and last year's *100 Days, 100 Nights*. "How Do I Let a Good Man Down?," "Be Easy," "Nobody's Baby," and a tightened-up "My Man Is a Mean Man," which featured some awkward onstage moves from a guy in the crowd, churned under Jones' amber voice with precision. She came with the message, as well, getting political but never losing the crowd on "What If We All Stopped Paying Taxes." A much-needed toweling down and eventual encore followed, with an appropriate cover of James Brown's "It's a Man's Man's Man's World." What had been introduced by the band's guitarist/emcee Binky Griptite as the "Daptone soul revue" felt not like 700-strong watching a group of revivalists gussying up the past but rather that of a soul crew giving us a show that just comes naturally. *– Audra Schroeder*

SANDY CARSON



LITTLE RICHARD

Paramount Theatre, Jan. 24

After Mingo Fishtrap's locally brewed opening set of funkiness, Little Richard, the self-styled king (some say queen) of rock & roll shuffled onstage on crutches and seated himself at the grand piano. Dressed in what looked like rhinestone-studded buckskin and wearing the modified mullet he traded his pompadour for years ago, he issued a million-watt smile. "Are you having a good time?" The audience in the section of orchestra seats below him hooted and clapped in reply. "Shut up," he responded with his trademark retort. The crowd cheered wildly. Yet, if those who paid the $100-plus ticket price and expected Little Richard to bang the 88s nonstop were disappointed, those who paid it and expected to be entertained were not. The Macon, Ga., native and his ninepiece band performed truncated versions of "Slippin' & Slidin'," "The Girl Can't Help It," "Tutti Frutti," and "Jenny Take a Ride" but not "Good Golly Miss Molly." His voice wasn't strong, due in part to poor microphone mechanics, but the spirit was willing, and he even worked in a brief sermon. At 75, Little Richard has more than six decades of writing and performing amped-up gospel and fuel-injected blues that didn't just define rock & roll; it laid out the blueprint. "I'm the architect of rock & roll," he announced several times, in case there was any doubt. There wasn't. As his generation of players winds to a close, Little Richard remains unparalleled for sheer pageantry, guts, and talent. Does anyone think they got shortchanged? Shut up. *– Margaret Moser*

ROGUE WAVE

The Parish, Jan. 25

Not even the damp, clingy air could keep Rogue Wave from selling out the Parish on Friday night. Los Angeles quartet Midnight Movies barely made it to the show on time, having zigged when they should've zagged on the way in from El Paso. They rocked a Lush-meets-Siouxsie sexy dark alt-rock vibe from the early 1990s nevertheless, throwing in an earnest cover of the Moody Blues' "Nights in White Satin" – complete with rock & roll flute! – for good measure. Oakland, Calif., outfit Rogue Wave then made good on the ticket sales. Frontman Zach Rogue resembles your favorite summer-camp counselor: affable, non-threatening, and a bit randy. He accompanied songs on the order of "Like I Needed," from the band's latest and most accomplished LP, *Asleep at Heaven's Gate*, with liberal hand gestures and led the band through an intense instrumental intro to "Sewn Up." The 90-minute set's high point came with the more languid, reverb-heavy "Bird on a Wire," which culminated in a five-man drum circle that lasted a blissful eternity before segueing into the gorgeous "Lake Michigan," a *Heaven's Gate* highlight. After wrapping up with new LP opener "Harmonium," Rogue came out for two acoustic bits, "Eyes" and "California." The band rejoined him for another pair of numbers, ending with a simply unrecognizable Neil Young tune that had certain fogies scratching their heads. It rocked, though, and that's all that matters on a Friday night. *– Melanie Haupt*



PHOTOS BY SHELLEY HIAM



News of the Weird

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

LEAD STORY

A start-up Massachusetts dating service has the usual questionnaires about likes and dislikes but bases compatibility specifically on how one person smells to another (straights and gays accommodated). Eric Holzle's ScientificMatch.com tests each person's "major histocompatibility complex" (MHC) genes, the science behind which dictates how one person will translate the scent of another (with similar-processing people less compatible). (In one famous study, women preferred the smell of T-shirts from men whose MHC was the most different from their own.) Holzle predicts a higher success rate than for ordinary dating agencies but at a fee of $1,995 per client.

BRIGHT IDEAS

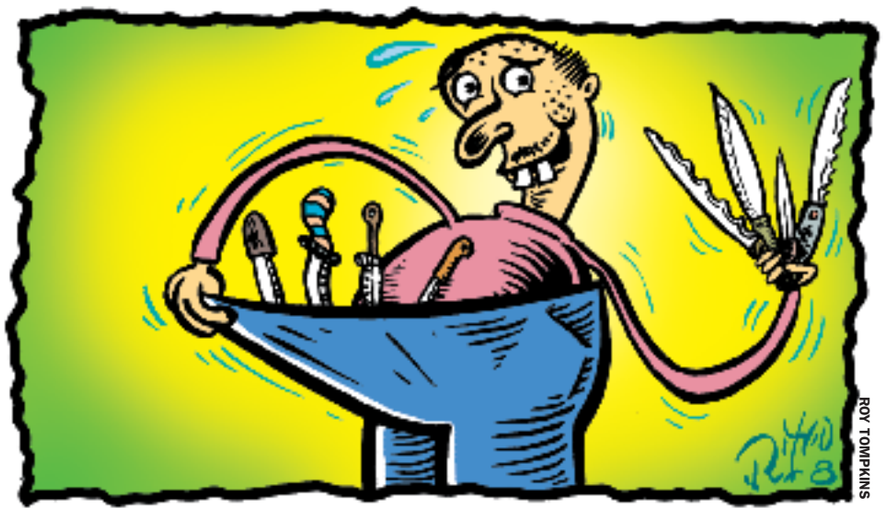
Michael Windisch, proprietor of the Maltermeister Turm restaurant in Goslar, Lower Saxony, Germany, solved what has become a crisis for other restaurants since the state extended a smoking ban in August. Windisch opened three holes in an outer wall so that, in cold weather, a smoker need not venture outside but can stick his head and arms through the holes and puff away while remaining inside (according to a December report in *Der Spiegel*).

THE CONTINUING CRISIS

• In December, the city of Bangalore, India, staged its fifth annual marathon, with an elite group of runners that officials thought would bring the city recognition in the world racing community, but problems occurred, the least of which were the city's ubiquitous potholes and pollution. At about the 20-kilometer mark, the leaders were chased down the street by barking dogs snapping at their heels. Twice during the race, runners were forced to stop and take breaks because impatient motorists were disregarding traffic controls to reclaim their roads.

• Egypt's competitive spirit, combined with a recent surge in piety as some in the Middle East strengthen their commitment to Islam, have led many men to suddenly sport dark calluses on their foreheads ("raisins") as a signal of perhaps overenthusiastic daily praying. The five prayers require, in all, 34 contacts with the ground (of forehead and nose), and additional personal prayers add to the total, according to a December *New York Times* dispatch from Cairo. Rumors persist that some men use sandpaper to darken the calluses to appear even more pious.

• Noxious Substances: 1) State and federal authorities descended on Quality Pork Processors of Austin, Minn., in December after 11 workers contracted a mysterious neurological illness, which apparently came from inhaling the mist that results from blowing hogs' brains out with compressed air. 2) New York City apartment-house doorman Jonah Seeman was suspended in December after excessive complaints about his bad breath. His job, said a resident, is opening the door, "not ... his mouth." 3) Maurice Fox, 77, said in December he would comply with the wishes of the Kirkham Street Sports and Social Club of Paignton, England, to sit only by the front door so he could excuse himself when he needed to pass gas, which management said had become a problem.



ROY TOMPKINS

Clumsy: A 26-year-old accused shoplifter was hospitalized in Grand Rapids, Mich., in January after he got into a scuffle with a department store security officer. He had allegedly stuffed some knives under his clothes, and, when he was knocked to the ground, he accidentally fell on several of the blades.

• A neighborhood yard sale in Cocoa, Fla., in December offering children's furniture and toys took place at a home at which two registered sex offenders reside with their mother (though it was unclear where the items came from). A probation officer checked periodically to see that the men did not venture outside, where some unsuspecting adults, and their children, browsed the inventory.

GREAT MOMENTS IN MATURITY

• Douglas Hoffman, 61, was sentenced in January to five years in prison for staging a small-scale terror campaign among his neighbors in Henderson, Nev., to mask his own vandalism in destroying more than 500 trees to get a better view of the Las Vegas Strip. At first, according to prosecutors, Hoffman cut down just the trees that affected his own view, but to divert attention, he cut down others in the subdivision and then sent threatening notes suggesting that an extremist militia would continue to attack their property, finally promising "chemical, biological, and nuclear mass destruction."

• John Hayes, 46, a Marietta, Ga., middle school coach, was arrested in December and charged as the person who drove a group of his students around at night so they could vandalize various Christmas yard decorations (in one case, leaving reindeer entangled in "sexual positions"). A neighbor whose display was wrecked pursued Hayes' truck, caught up to him, and asked, "Are you crazy?" Hayes responded, allegedly, "It's just a bit of fun."

THE DISTRICT OF CALAMITY (CONTINUED)

1) Washington, D.C., firefighter Gerald Burton faced suspension in December for disobeying a direct order by fighting a blaze he had come across while driving his fire truck to a training class. A supervisor had ordered him on to the class, but Burton and his partner put out the fire (limiting damage to $150,000), along with the dispatched crew, which arrived shortly after Burton. 2) In December, as the director of the District of Columbia's Youth Rehabilitation Services spoke before the City Council on the successes of his special unit tracking down escapees, one on-the-run youth watched from the audience a few feet away, unknown to the director, according to a *Washington Post* report. (Another 19-year-old ran away in September and was unaccounted for because a female YRS officer, unknown to her superiors, had subsequently married him and was keeping him at their home, according to the *Post*.)

THE WEIRDO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Authorities in Valentine, Neb., have been on the lookout since November for the vandal who has approached several storefronts at night and, apparently with Vaseline smeared over his nude body, pressed himself against windows and doors. A radio station called the person "the buttcheek bandit" (although some speculate there may also be a copycat). Asked Valentine police chief Ben McBride, "Who in their right mind would do something like that?"

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at **newsoftheweird.blogspot.com** *(or* **www.newsoftheweird.com***). Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or* **weirdnewstips@yahoo.com**.

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this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

(PLUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM **ARTS**, **FILM**, AND **MUSIC**) BY NORA ANKRUM

MARDI GRAS IN THE BIG EASY Learn to make traditional gumbos today, topped off with bread pudding and bourbon sauce for dessert. *Fri., Feb. 1, 6:30-9pm. Central Market North, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000. $65.*

MARDI GRAS SOCK HOP promises not one but two nights of authentic Mardi Gras revelry featuring New Orleans' own **Hot 8 Brass Band**. *Fri.-Sat., Feb. 1-2, 9pm-2am. Scoot Inn and Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. $10.*

Mardi Gras

SENIOR CITIZENS MARDI GRAS DANCE The Allen R. Baca Center hosts this dance for all you revelers out there hoping to avoid the amateurs this year. *Fri., Feb. 1, 6-10pm. Allen R. Baca Center, 301 W. Bagdad Ave. Bldg. 2, Round Rock, 512/218-5499. $8 ($6, members).* **www.bacacenter.com**.

SOUTH AUSTIN WORLD CARNAVAL Get a sneak preview of tomorrow night's Carnaval Brasileiro with performances from Acadêmicos da Ópera, O Positivo, Seu Jacinto, and McCallum High School's talented steel band. *Fri., Feb. 1, 9pm-2am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. $12 ($10, students).*

ARMENIAN MARDI GRAS This family-friendly party celebrates the music and cultures of the Middle East with belly dance performances, clowns to entertain the little ones, and tasty Middle Eastern delicacies to keep you grooving to the Armenian, Greek, Persian, and Arabic rhythms spun by Los Angeles' DJs Raffi, Danny, and Sevag. *Sat., Feb. 2, 8pm-2am. Crowne Plaza, 6121 N. I-35, 346-7033. $40 ($25, students/dance only at 10pm; free, kids 10 & under).* **tickets@armenianmardigras.com**, **www.armenianmardigras.com**.

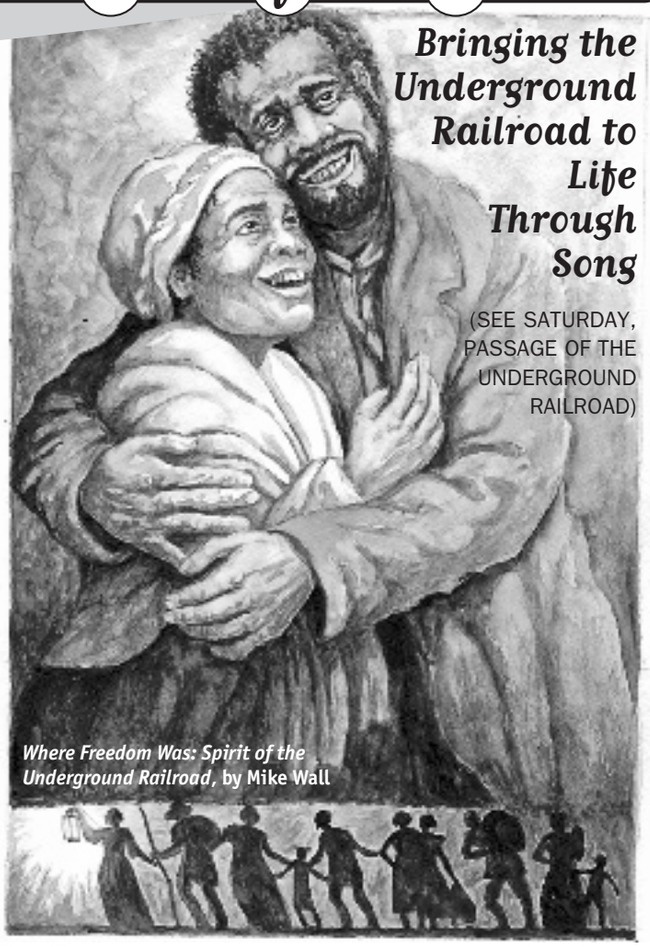
BREAD FUNDAMENTALS: BAGUETTE & BOULE Get into the Louisiana spirit with a lesson in classic French bread-making. *Sat., Feb. 2, 10am-1:30pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206. $65*

CARNAVAL BRASILEIRO This annual Brazilian Mardi Gras blowout is expected to draw more than 6,000 people this year, and you should probably be one of them. Austin's own Acadêmicos da Ópera will be there with their 10 dancers and 35 drummers, as will New York's Grupo Saveiro (voted "Best Brazilian Band in the USA" by the Brazilian Press Association). So grab your masks, your feathers, your samba shoes, and get ready to dance. *Sat., Feb. 2, 9pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4500. $35.* **www.sambaparty.com**.

MARDI GRAS 5K (See Sports.) *Sat., Feb. 2.* **www.mardigras5k.com**.

MARDI GRAS MADNESS Enjoy an authentic New Orleans dinner this evening along with dancing and live and silent auctions in support of college scholarships for area students and Campbell Elementary's Kids Cafe program. *Sat., Feb. 2, 8pm-12:30am. Renaissance Hotel, 9721 Arboretum, 343-2626. $75.* **publicity@townlakelinks.org**, **www.townlakelinks.org**.

MARDI GRAZIE DINNER PARTY Enjoy performances from McCallum High School's award-winning concert bands, jazz band, and steel drum band tonight as you bid on items in the live and silent auctions. All proceeds will help fund the 175-piece band's trip to New York City to perform in the one and only Carnegie Hall. *Sat., Feb. 2, 5:30pm. McCallum High School, 5600 Sunshine, 563-6577. $12 ($8, students).* **hydejoan@earthlink.net**.



Bringing the Underground Railroad to Life Through Song

(SEE SATURDAY, PASSAGE OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD)

Where Freedom Was: Spirit of the Underground Railroad, by Mike Wall

Thursday 31

BISHOP E.T. DIXON BLACK HISTORY MONTH LECTURE Cain Hope Felder – the renowned theologian, writer, and editor of *The Journal of Religious Thought* – kicks off Black History Month this afternoon as Huston-Tillotson's distinguished Dixon lecturer. The New Testament language professor and recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Award will be discussing **Africa, African-Americans, and the Bible**. *2pm. Agard-Lovinggood Auditorium, Huston-Tillotson University, 900 Chicon, 505-3146. Free.* **rrjones@htu.edu**, **www.htu.edu**.

AAIM ANNUAL MEETING In case you missed award-winning scholar **Cain Hope Felder** speaking as Huston-Tillotson's Dixon lecturer this afternoon, you can still catch him tonight, discussing **New Frontiers in Biblical Studies**, at this annual **Austin Area Interreligious Ministries** event. The AAIM folks invite you to join them in taking a look back over the past year as well as forward to what the 2008 calendar has in store. *7pm. King-Seabrook Chapel, Huston-Tillotson University, 900 Chicon. Free.*

BUSINESS STRUCTURE WORKSHOP The city of Austin Small Business Development Program hosts this class on how to determine the best structure for your business. *9am-noon. International Center of Austin, 201 E. Second, 974-7800. $30.* **stacey.mason@ci.austin.tx.us**, **www.cityofaustin.org/sbdp**.

COME BACK TO GARRISON UT celebrates the reopening of Garrison Hall and the inauguration of the new Institute for Historical Studies this week with two days of tours, exhibits, talks, and film screenings. The festivities kick off with Thursday night's reception (*4-7pm, Main Building, Room 212*), while the lectures and screenings begin at 10am Friday, addressing such topics as: Torture, Past & Present; Rewriting the Vietnam War; Bubble & Bust: Lessons From Japan; and Jesus at the Movies, the Silent Era. See **www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/history/comeback** for the full schedule. *Thu.-Fri., Jan. 31-Feb. 1. UT campus.*

FIGHT PROPOSED NUCLEAR PLANTS IN TEXAS This presentation from Nuclear Free Texas features information about two new plants proposed for Texas and how you can help block them. *8pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925.* **www.nukefreetexas.org**.

FOCUS THE NATION CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE As part of a national series of teach-ins taking place on campuses across the country today, St. Edward's University invites you to join in on a full day of workshops and panels devoted to brainstorming solutions to global warming. *9:30am-5pm. Ragsdale Center at St. Edward's, 3001 S. Congress, 464-8871. Free.* **www.focusthenation.org**.

RECOVERY INC. MEETINGS For anyone suffering from anxiety, depression, anger, phobias, or other emotional problems. *Mondays, 7:30-9pm: Unity Church of the Hills, 9905 Anderson Mill Rd. Thursdays, 7:30-9pm: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Parish Office Building, room 210, 4800 Convict Hill. 233-0650. Free.* **www.recovery-inc.org**.

WINTER BACKYARD BIRDS There are some birds that winter only in Austin. Why do they have such good taste? Find out this evening from John Kelly of the Travis Audubon Society. *7-8pm. REI, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 482-3357. Free.*

YOUNG NONPROFIT PROFESSIONALS NETWORK BREAKFAST TALK-O What will nonprofits do in the face of statistics suggesting that much of the industry's executive leadership will be retiring or quitting in the next few years? Perhaps you'll figure it out in this morning's discussion moderated by YNPN. *7:30-8:30am. Leadership Austin Conference Room, 1609 Shoal Creek Blvd. #202. Free.* **rachel.christ@alumni.utexas.net**, **www.ynpn.org/austin**.

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Design Center of Austin

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Austin Jewish Film Festival @ *Arbor, all day*
Blood Car @ *Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Bangles *La Zona Rosa*
Velvet Revolver *Stubb's*
Bee vs. Moth *Carousel Lounge*
Nicky Click *Chain Drive*
Grand Champeen's 15th Anniversary *Beerland*

Friday 01

ALTERNATIVE RADIO presents Julian Darley of the Post Carbon Institute on sustainable energy alternatives. *2pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.* **www.koop.org**.

CITY OF AUSTIN BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION Huston-Tillotson President Larry Earvin presents this morning's keynote address about Black History Month founder **Carter G. Woodson**. The HT University and Campbell Elementary School choirs perform, and Travis County Judge Samuel Biscoe emcees. *10:30-11:30am. Boyd Vance Theatre at Carver, 1165 Angelina, 583-7227. Free.* **www.austintexas.org**.

PEOPLE UNITED features members of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers discussing the labor struggles of immigrants in Florida. *1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.* **www.koop.org**.

THE GENDERED BLOGOSPHERE: WHERE PROMISE MEETS REALITY In this talk sponsored by UT's Center for Women's and Gender Studies, UT journalism professor Dustin Harp contends that old systems of power remain in play despite the Internet's democratization of public discourse. *1-2pm. UT campus, Parlin, room 201, 471-5765. Free.* **wstudies@uts.cc.utexas.edu**.

COME BACK TO GARRISON
(See Thursday 1/31.)

COMEDY (See Arts Listings.)
Doug Mellard *Velveeta Room*

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
The Opera House

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Austin Jewish Film Festival @ *Arbor, all day*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Ugly Beats *Beerland*
Mardi Gras Sock Hop *Scoot Inn and Bier Garten*
Sierra Leone Refugee All-Stars *Flamingo Cantina*

Saturday 02

ART IN THE HEART OF TEXAS Congregation Aguda Achim hosts a wine and cheese reception this evening to accompany a live art auction featuring lithographs, engravings, etchings, watercolors, oils, and more. *7:30-10pm. Congregation Agudas Achim, 7300 Hart, 735-8400. $15 ($10, in advance).* **esherrod1@austin.rr.com**, **www.caa-austin.org**.

ARTIST'S MARKET *Most Saturdays, 10am-6pm (check website). Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 535-5761. Free.* **www.downtownartistmarket.com**.

AUDIO DESCRIBERS NEEDED VSA Arts of Texas is looking for articulate, quick-witted, and charismatic speakers interested in describing movies, museum exhibits, performances, and other cultural arts experiences to the blind and visually impaired. If you're interested, call or e-mail to attend today's training session. *1-5pm. AGE Building, 3710 Cedar, 454-9912.* **april@vsatx.org**, **www.vsatx.org**.

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET *Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free.* **www.austinfarmersmarket.org**.

AUSTIN LUPUS SUPPORT GROUP *First Saturdays, 5:30-7pm. Seton Medical Center, McFadden Conference Room, 1201 W. 38th, 422-9227. Free.* **fusumada@hotmail.com**, **www.lupus.org/newsite/index.html**.

BAMBOO LOGIC hosts their monthly seminar and tour of the Bamboo Specimen Garden today at Casa de Luz. Discussion topics include bamboo horticulture, growth habits and rates, problem-solving for invasive species, and landscape applications. Call or e-mail to register. *10am-noon. Casa de Luz, 1701 Toomey, 350-8505. $15.* **bamboologic@mac.com**.

BEAUTY & SELF-ESTEEM IN SOCIETY: FREEING OURSELVES & THE NEXT GENERATION This panel discussion examining the role of beauty stereotypes in women's lives brings to town feminist writer **Naomi Wolf** (author of *The Beauty Myth*) as the keynote speaker, along with journalist **Katie Orenstein**, and filmmaker/writer **Courtney E. Martin**. The event concludes with professional development break-out sessions addressing vari-

ous topics, including financial literacy, negotiation, public speaking, and more. *11am-1pm. Jester Auditorium, UT campus, Speedway & 21st, 212/819-4874. Free.* **www.123signup.com/definingbeautyatUTAustin**.

BRIGHID FAIRE It's time to put some flowers in your hair and celebrate the goddess of poetry, healing, and smithcraft as we reach the halfway point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. This annual artisan fair at the Vortex features arts, crafts, performances, and an authentic Ritual for Brighid modeled after those found in the works of Irish folklorists (2pm). *Noon-5pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282.* **www.tejasweb.org**.

BUS RIDERS UNION-ATX Interested in free public transit in Austin? Find out more at today's meeting. (Any one- or two-digit bus route will drop you off within three blocks.) *2-4pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 499-7480. Free.* **info@busatx.org**, **www.busatx.org**.

HAND TALK This weekly sign language class for hearing and nonhearing participants kicks off with a special storytime session for kids (*1-2pm*) before the adult session begins at *2pm*. *Saturdays, 2-3pm. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 923-9523. Free.* **www.mitchie.com**.

KENTUCKY FRIED CRUELTY PROTEST gathers today to speak out against KFC's treatment of animals at supplier warehouses and slaughterhouses. Call or e-mail for details. *1-3pm. Kentucky Fried Chicken, 2224 E. Riverside, 557-7214. Free.* **sthomas4242@yahoo.com**.

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION ushers in the Year of the Earth Rat (we'd hate to see what the extraterrestrial rat looks like) with a day of martial-arts demonstrations, dance, music, and delicious Asian treats to celebrate the new year. *10am-3pm. Asian American Cultural Center, 11713 Jollyville, 336-5069. Free.*

NATURALIZATION CLINIC The Political Asylum Project of Austin sponsors this clinic for qualifying individuals in need of step-by-step assistance with applying for U.S. citizenship. *9am-5pm. Political Asylum Project of Austin, 314 E. Highland Mall Blvd. #501, 478-0546 x207.* **yasminef@papais.org**, **www.papaustin.org**.

PASSAGE OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD Join the Austin Children's Choir for a special evening of musical performances interwoven with exhibits, monologues, readings, film screenings, and arts and crafts in celebration of Black History Month. Highly recommended. *1-5pm. Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 450-4395. $5.* **david@wyattbrand.com**, **www.austinchildrenschoir.com**.

RODNEY REED MARCH & RALLY Join friends, family, and supporters of death row inmate Rodney Reed today as they call for a new trial. Reed was convicted of raping and killing a woman in 1996, but supporters are hoping for a new trial in light of recent circumstances suggesting that someone else may have committed the crimes. See **www.freerodneyreed.org** for more. *Meet at South Congress & Monroe at noon; proceed to City Hall for the 1pm rally.*

SAHAJA YOGA MEDITATION aims to help you achieve balance, inner peace, and resistance to stress, depression, and anxiety. *Saturdays, 11am-noon. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 828-0129. Free.* **www.austinsahajayoga.org**.

SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER Daniel Webb, Dans le Lune, and the Story Of present an evening of wintry-white music followed by a dance party that'll get you so hot you'll think it's August already. *9pm-2am. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 902-5057. $5.*

SPEAKING OF JAZZ Join the LBJ High School jazz band tonight for the first in a series of dinners featuring jazz performances spotlighting a variety of eras and dance performances from the LBJ Swing Club. You'll also get the chance to win prizes in the raffle ($5 per ticket). Call to reserve your spot. *7-10pm. Region XIII Education Service Center, 5701 Springdale, 789-4716. $15 (proceeds benefit the LBJ band).* **lbj.jazz@sbcglobal.net**.

SPRING VEGETABLE GARDENING & HOW TO SHARPEN YOUR GARDENING TOOLS This spring gardening seminar covers everything from Central Texas-friendly plant varieties to composting to recommended planting times. All levels of experience are welcome. *10am-noon. West Rural Community Center, 8656 Hwy. 71 W. Bldg. A, 854-9600. Free.* **www.tcmastergardener.org/html/events.html**.

TAPESTRY OF JEWISH LEARNING features 19 different classes covering a variety of topics, including Jewish Love Songs From Around the World; Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll in the Bible; the Best Jewish Films You've Never Seen; and Jewish Perspectives in Death and Dying. Rabbi Arthur Blecher, author of *The New American Judaism: The Way Forward on Challenging Issues From Intermarriage to Jewish Identity* delivers the keynote address, and the evening's

the young ones

GET A GRIP COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS are available to area high school seniors who've been instrumental in organizing blood drives. See **www.inyourhands.org** for eligibility and application requirements. *Deadline: Feb. 1. 206-1138.*

CALLING ALL YOUNG CHOREOGRAPHERS! Aspiring choreographers ages 7-17 are invited to submit their best original, three-minute group routines to Ballet Austin's **Youth Choreographic Competition**. Winners (to be announced *Feb. 9*) will be awarded free dance classes, tickets to the ballet, and more. See **www.balletaustin.org/youthcompetition/index.php** for details. *Deadline: Feb. 3.* **contest@balletaustin.org**.

WHY COWBOYS SING IN TEXAS! Slim Jim Bean and the Old Timer will learn ya the traditions of the Old West in this puppet show for kids ages 5 and older. (Call *974-7302* to reserve a space for five or more.) *Sat., Feb. 2, 2pm: Central Library, 800 Guadalupe. Thu., Feb. 7, 10:30am: Terrazas Branch, 1105 E. Cesar Chavez.*

AUSTIN JEWISH ACADEMY KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE Meet teachers as well as current students and parents at this morning's open house, featuring activities for you and your kindergartener-to-be. *Thu., Jan. 31, 8:30-10am. Austin Jewish Academy, 7300 Hart.* **rsvp@austinjewishacademy.org**, **www.austinjewishacademy.org**.

ONA'KAN INFORMATION/ORIENTATION SESSION invites youth to enroll in the Ona'kan Afrikan-centered after-school/weekend program featuring creative writing, visual arts, dance, drama, and fighting arts workshops, as well as a Cultural Rites of Passage program and a Warrior Training/Ceremonies for Black Men program. *Thu., Jan. 31, 6-8pm: Carver Museum conference room, 1165 Angelina. Thu., Feb. 7, 6:30-8:30pm: Carver Library, 1161 Angelina. 317-6826. Free.* **sankofaasafo@yahoo.com**.

D'ARCPROJECT This fictional drama inspired by Joan of Arc was created by a theatre group of home-schooled teens under the direction of Tina Gramann. Join the cast after each Saturday performance for a silent auction and refreshments. *Feb. 1-10. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. ZACH's Whisenhunt Stage, 1510 Toomey (Riverside at S. Lamar), 476-0541 x1. $10-15.* **www.zachscott.com**.

AUSTIN PEACE ACADEMY FAMILY READING NIGHT & BOOK FAIR This local Muslim school for prekindergarteners through ninth graders hosts a book fair tonight, featuring children's activities, a family dinner, and kids' books on sale. *Fri., Feb. 1, 5:30-7:30pm. 5110 Manor Rd.* **www.apacademy.org**.

AUSTIN GIRLS' CHOIR AUDITIONS invites girls ages 8-18 to try out for one of the top treble choirs in the country. See **www.austin.girlschoir.com** for more info on the AGC; call *453-0884* to schedule an audition. *Weekends, through Feb. 16.*

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST It's up to the audience in this production of *Beauty and the Beast* to help Belle break the curse that turned a handsome prince into a unsightly monster. *Through March 2. Saturdays, 10am (no show Feb. 16); Sundays, 2pm; Tue., Feb. 19, 10:30am. Scottish Rite, 207 W. 18th, 472-7247. $10 ($7, ages 12 & under; $3, infants).* **www.scottishritetheatre.org**.

GOLLY GEE WHIZ! hearkens back to the Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney films of the 1930s with a Depression-era musical about how the kids in Happyville beat the blues through the magic of puttin' on a good show. *Through Feb. 17. Sat., 1 & 3:30pm; Sun., Feb. 10 & 17, 2:30pm; Thu., Feb. 14, 7pm (arrive early for Valentine's Day crafts and refreshments). Andrew and Grace Groten Stage at Zachary Scott Theatre, 1426 Toomey. $10 ($7, 12 & under).* **www.zachscott.com**.

DANGEROUS BOYS CLUB Three area Barnes & Nobles celebrate the bestselling *Dangerous Book for Boys* today. Kids will learn the secrets of coin tricks, the keys to cracking codes, and more as they tackle dangerous missions and learn about the spies that came before them. *Sat., Feb. 2. B&N Westlake, 10am: 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3155. B&N Arboretum, 1pm: 10000 Research #158, 418-8985. B&N South, 7pm: 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.*

EUREKA! Get creative with the adorably clever *Not a Stick* by Antoinette Portis, along with other wildly imaginative books to inspire your senses. *Sat., Feb. 2, 11:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

L. KING PEREZ visits Texas prior to *Brown v. Board of Education* in his sweet young-adult novel, *Remember As You Pass Me By*. *Sat., Feb. 2, 12:30pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

ALL-STAR FAMILY FILM FESTIVAL This monthly series presents afternoon sports movies the whole family can enjoy. Don't miss February's feature, *Cool Runnings*. *Sat., Feb. 2, 2pm. Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill, 892-6680. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

FLYING THEATER MACHINE This interactive performance featuring games and stories provides kids ages 4-10 with an early introduction to improv comedy. *Through Feb. 24. Sundays, 2-3pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. $5 (free, babies).* **jessica@arjet.net**.

SUNDAY KID SHOW features children's performer Staci Gray this week. *Sun., Feb. 3, 10:30-11:30am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free.* **www.rutamaya.net**.

MADELINE & THE BAD HAT Based on the book of the same name, this original musical kicks off the Paramount Kid's Season with the adventures of a young Parisian named Madeline. *Sun., Feb. 3, 2 & 4:30pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. $7.50-35.* **www.austintheatre.org**.

MAKE A FRIEND AT AJA Kids in the third through seventh grades are invited to shadow Austin Jewish Academy students today and find out what it's like to attend AJA. *Mon., Feb. 4, 8am-3:30pm. Austin Jewish Academy, 7300 Hart.* **www.austinjewishacademy.org**.

CRAZY FOR CALDECOTT STORYTIME includes one of this year's Caldecott medalists, *First the Egg* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger, along with winners from years past. *Tue., Feb. 5, 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

KADIR NELSON The Caldecott-winning illustrator and author presents his newest picture book, *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*. *Tue., Feb. 5, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

WE LOVE OUR STUFFED ANIMALS! Enjoy Mo Willems' *Knuffle Bunny* and other stories all about your plush, button-missing friends. *Wed., Feb. 6, 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*



SPORTS BLOG

THE SCORE

On last week's announcement of Austin's new professional soccer franchise, the Austin Aztex:

"News of the century!"

– Nick Barbaro

READ MORE AND COMMENT:

CHRONICLE austinchronicle.com/sports

Spiritual Dreaming

FREE FOUR-WEEK WORKSHOP SERIES!

453-0331

Learn to see and use the wisdom in your dreams.

Discover:

- different types of dreams
- how to interpret dreams
- how dreams are a doorway to heaven

Tuesday Evenings
7-8:30pm
Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26

Austin ECKANKAR Center
Executive Office Terrace Complex,
Suite B-206 • 453-0331
www.eckankar-texas.org



Hwy 183 Access Road **at Northcrest**, Between Lamar and IH-35 Behind the Red Lobster. Call for Directions.

events conclude with a dessert reception welcoming Robert Abzug, UT's new Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies director. *5-10pm. Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 735-8000. $20-25 ($10-18, in advance).*

TWELFTH STREET EAST END INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL kicks off with a morning walk/run (registration at 9am), followed by a day of kids activities and live music headed up by Saul Paul. There will also be an awards ceremony honoring community-oriented Austinites. *10am-4pm. 1801 Pennsylvania Ave., 947-9066. Free.* **africaetc@yahoo.com**.

CLASSICAL MUSIC (See Arts Listings.)
Texas Early Music Project: Monteverdi: Letters and Laments *First English Lutheran Church*

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Wally Workman Gallery

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Super Furry Animals, **Holy Fuck** *Emo's*
Carnaval Brasileiro *Palmer Events Center*
Mardi Gras Sock Hop *Scoot Inn and Bier Garten*
Air Supply *Riverbend Centre*
Dianne Scott's Birthday Bash *Continental Club*
Grupo Fantasma *Antone's*

Sunday 03

BILINGUAL POWER YOGA FLOW A 90-minute session for all levels, taught in Spanish and English. *Sundays, 4:30pm; Wednesdays, 6pm. Esquina Tango, 209 Pedernales. $8 recommended donation.* **namaste.austin@gmail.com**.

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN This week's platform, **Discovering the Meaning of Life**, is led by Charles O'Dell. *10am-12:30pm. Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. Free.* **contact@esoa.org**, **www.esoa.org**.

GIRLFRIENDS VS. SEX AND THE CITY SUPER BOWL invites all you Super Bowl widows out there to join in on a DVD marathon pitting *Girlfriends* against *Sex and the City*. Teams will be acting out scenes and playing games – the winning team will the one "most guilty of the abandonment of cultural awareness" and "denigration of the positive self-image of black women." What will you do at half-time? Mini spa treatments! Call for location details and RSVP. *3-10pm. $20 ($15, advance); proceeds benefit Sankofa'Asafo programs.* **sankofaasafo@yahoo.com**, **www.freewebs.com/sankofaasafo**.

HAPPY LIVING WITH JUSTICE meets twice monthly for awareness-raising discussion and yoga. Today, the **Austin Permaculture Guild**'s Jennifer Nazak discusses permie lifestyle. *3-5:30pm. Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 450-1620. Free.* **happylivingwithjustice@gmail.com**.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM Political science professor **Gary Keith** shares stories of Texas' colorful political past today when he discusses his recent book, *Eckhardt: There Once Was a Congressman From Texas*. *11:30am-12:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free.* **www.austinuu.org**.

PUERTO RICAN STUDIES WORKSHOP: ROBERTO CLEMENTE, THE GREAT ONE Join die-hard fan Edwin Baez for this special look at the life of Roberto Clemente, the first Latin American baseball player inducted into the Hall of Fame. Baez will be sharing Clemente memorabilia and teaching kids all about collecting and pricing baseball cards. *2-4pm. Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center, 701 Tillery, 251-8122. Free.* **www.prfdance.org**.

YBP WORK PARTY Join the Yellow Bike Project folks this afternoon in sprucing up the shop and organizing its stockpile of tools and parts. You'll get free pizza in return! *1-5pm. Main Shop, 2013 E. 51st.* **www.austinyellowbike.org**.

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Band of Horses *La Zona Rosa*
Junior Reid *The Parish*
Ephraim Owens, **Brannen Temple**, **Red Young** *Lamberts*

Monday 04

ADOPTION KNOWLEDGE AFFILIATE SEARCH ASSISTANCE MEETING Are you trying to reconnect with someone you lost touch with through a closed adoption? This meeting is open to anyone 18 years old or older (unless accompanied by legal guardian). *7-9pm. Westover Hills Church, 8332 Mesa, 442-8252. $10 (free, AKA).* **aka@adoptionknowledge.org**, **www.adoptionknowledge.org**.

AFRICAN NETWORKING & SOCIAL EVENT Bring a tasty dish to share, and make connections with fellow Africans today at this informal gathering. Kids are welcome, as are businesses interested in promoting in Austin's African community. *5:30-8:30pm. Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 974-1010. Free.* **leilaniog@yahoo.com**.

AUSTIN AFRICA NETWORK meets this month for a viewing of *Heart of Africa*, a documentary following Bono, Chris Tucker, and Ashley Judd as they tour the U.S. to raise awareness of AIDS in Africa. You'll also hear from the folks at Gateway Church, who'll be talking about their upcoming "AIDS in Africa" exhibit. *7-8:30pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 275-6790 or 977-8254. Free.*

AUSTIN CYCLING ASSOCIATION Watch a brand-new minidocumentary about the Yellow Bike Project at this month's ACA meeting, and get a glimpse of YBP's upcoming projects. *7pm. Yellow Bike Project Main Shop, 2013 E. 51st.* **www.austincycling.org**.

CENTER FOR INQUIRY AUSTIN'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT LECTURE SERIES presents **Belief & Unbelief in George Bush's America**, a talk from UT history professor G. Howard Miller. *7-8:30pm. Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., 919-4115. Free.* **austin@centerforinquiry.net**, **www.centerforinquiry.net/austin**.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATE FORUM The Texas Moratorium Network & American Civil Liberties Union of Texas are hosting this 90-minute forum giving you the opportunity to hear all four DA candidates' views on the death penalty, police misconduct, juvenile justice, and other important criminal justice and public safety issues – you'll even get a chance to ask your own questions. *6pm. Gene's New Orleans Style Poboys & Deli, 1209 E. 11th, 573-6194. Free.* **debmocracy@yahoo.com**, **www.aclutx.org**.

JAPONICA SALON This monthly cultural series brings you a special presentation tonight on *suminagashi*, the art of Japanese paper marbling. Afterward, enjoy complimentary treats like *kukicha* tea, *daifuku mochi*, and *sembe*. *First Mondays, 7-9pm. Casa de Luz, 1701 Toomey, 350-8505. Free.* **www.jasga.org**.

TAXPAYER WEBINARS The Texas Comptroller's office is offering business taxpayers two days of online seminars on the following topics: Overview of the Revised Franchise Tax (*Mon., 9am-noon*); Total Revenue (*Mon., 1:30-2:30pm*); Cost of Goods Sold (*Tue., 10-11am*); Compensation (*Tue., 1:30-2:30pm*). See **www.window.state.tx.us** for details. *Mon.-Tue., Feb. 4-5.*

TOWN HALL MEETINGS: CITY WEBSITE REDESIGN Surely you've got some idea of how the city of Austin website can be improved – stop by one of this week's town hall meetings, and share your thoughts. *6pm. Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 472-4809. Free.*

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR TEXAS PRIMARIES If you'd like to vote in a Texas primary this election year, you must be registered by midnight tonight, when the Travis County Voter Registrar closes. (Not sure if you're registered? Visit **www.traviscountytax.org** to check your status.) *7:30-12mid. Travis County Voter Registrar, 5501 Airport, 854-9473. Free.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
"The Heart of America Tour" @ *Joe's Coffeehouse, 7pm*
Dark Night of the Soul @ *MEZ B0.306 (on the UT campus), 7pm*
Dirt Road to Psychedelia @ *Alamo Ritz, 10pm*
L'Atalante @ *Texas Union Theatre, 7:30pm*
***There Will Be Blood* With Co-Star Russell Harvard** @ *Alamo Ritz, 8:30pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Go-Go's *Antone's*

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Roy T's Old Salado Bakery began with two legends and has expanded from there. One legend was made up just for fun; the other is a fine Southern tradition of pastries that goes back more than half a century.

We'll start with the first legend. It's more of a tall tale. Back in two-double-aught-six, John Davis; his partner and father-in-law, Roy Tyson; and their wives decided to escape Dallas for the village of Salado to open a bakery.

The family installed the ovens in a rock farmhouse at the entrance ramp to I-35. It is also half a block off one of the town's main thoroughfares. The only problem, the building inspector said, was the old water well in front of the building. It had to be permanently plugged so no one could fall in before Davis and Tyson could open their business. The result was a not particularly attractive concrete slab near the front door.

Davis took the lemons of the eyesore and made lemonade by covering it with a fake wishing well and a legend. "The wishing well needed a story," Davis says with a laugh.

The tale goes something like this: A young Roy T., who grew up in the Salado area, was out on the prairie one day when he stopped at the well for a drink. Just as the building inspector said someone would, Roy T. fell into the well. A long time passed before a buffalo looked over the side of the deep hole just in time to have a horn caught by Roy T.'s lasso. The young cowboy was pulled to safety by a bison-powered elevator. Roy T. was so appreciative that he placed a big, iron bison on the cafe's front lawn as the bakery's mascot.

That story was just for fun, but nobody was sure what to say when the granddaughter of Salado's other Roy T. came into the coffee shop with a bone to pick with the owners. Her grandfather Roy Taylor Sheppard was a popular grocer in town during the Forties and Fifties. "It was very much a *Little House on the Prairie* kind of store," Davis says. Roy T.'s grocery is best remembered for showing movies on the store's outdoor wall.

Davis explained the origin of the bakery's name but was impressed by the woman's story. On the wall next to the front door he placed a sign telling the history of Salado's first famous Roy T.

The bakery's second legend comes from its partnership with the Southern Maid Donut Flour Co. Founded in Shreveport, La., in 1937, Southern Maid Donut shops spread across the South because of the consistent quality and their support from the *Louisiana Hayride* radio show. Minnie Pearl and Johnny Cash sang commercials for the "piping hot" doughnuts. The only commercial Elvis Presley ever recorded was the Southern Maid jingle.



GERALD E. MCLEOD
Food for the road

As a kid growing up in Dallas, Davis had a Southern Maid shop in his neighborhood. "I've always measured other doughnuts against the ones from that store," he says. "I've done a lot of different kinds of jobs, but I never thought I'd be the doughnut guy."

Since moving to Salado, Davis, his wife, and his young daughter have settled into small-town living. At first the bakery meant long days for Davis, waking early to cook the breakfast pastries and staying late to prepare for the next day. He says things are developing into a routine, even though the menu keeps expanding.

Along with glazed doughnuts, sausage wraps, pies, and espresso drinks, the bakery offers gourmet sandwiches made on homemade bread. Or the European-style artisan breads come by the round loaf in white, whole-wheat, or multigrain. The bakery recently added pizza to the growing menu. Davis and his family are working hard to build another legend in Salado.

Roy T's Old Salado Bakery is on the northbound side of I-35 at exit 284. The bakery is open Tuesday through Sunday from 7am to 5pm and on Monday from 7am to noon. Give them a call at 254/947-7181, and they'll have a custom-made cake, lunch, or pizza waiting for you.

865th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, *a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for $8.95, plus $3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.*

out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

NATIVE WORDS, NATIVE WARRIORS explores the remarkable story of six Indian nations that served as code talkers in the military during World War II. *Through April 6. Museum of Western Art, 1550 Bandera Hwy., Kerrville, 830/896-2553.* **www.museumofwesternart.org**.

MARDI GRAS WEEKEND Only half as far as New Orleans but just as much fun, this celebration features parades, concerts, and lots of Texas Cajun food. *Thu.-Sun., Jan.31-Feb. 3. Downtown Port Arthur, 409/721-8717. $10.* **mardigras@portarthur.com**, **www.portarthur.com/mardigras**.

STOCK SHOW & RODEO has it all, with a professional rodeo, carnival rides and games, exhibits, a horse show, livestock exhibitions, and more. *Through Feb. 17. AT&T Center and Freeman Coliseum Grounds, 3201 E. Houston St., San Antonio, 210/225-5851.* **www.sarodeo.com**.

HERO SHIPS premieres the History Channel's new series about wartime ships like the *Battleship Texas*. *Through Feb. 23. Saturdays, 1:30pm. National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg, 830/997-4379.* **www.nimitz-museum.org**.

DUTCH OVEN COOK-OFF has chefs competing for top honors in the art of making entrées, desserts, breads, and more all in the Dutch oven. *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 2-3. Big Bend Motor Inn Party Barn, Study Butte, 432/371-2331.* **www.bigbendmotorinntx.com**.

ARMAND BAYOU RANGER PONTOON BOAT EXPERIENCE takes you on morning and sunset nature cruises through the coastal marshes. *Saturdays, through Feb. 23. Armand Bayou Nature Center, Pasadena, 281/474-2551.* **www.abnc.org**.

FIRST SATURDAY Tour one of the finest collections of modern and contemporary sculptures in the world, and enjoy hands-on art projects, music, and more. *Sat., Feb. 2, 10am-2pm. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St., Dallas, 214/242-5100. Free.* **www.nashersculpturecenter.org**.

FIRST SUNDAY is designed to give families an interactive introduction to the MFAH and its current exhibitions with art activities, performances, films, and refreshments. *Sun., Feb. 3, 12:15-7pm. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 713/639-7300. Free.* **www.mfah.org**.

Ongoing Events

AIR-INTERACTIVE COMPETITION This annual competition pairs savvy Web designers with arts organizations, musicians, and artists who want to make their websites more accessible to people with disabilities. The teams with the best sites will be recognized at SXSW Interactive. See **www.knowbility.org/air-interactive** for details. *Feb. 1-March 1. 305-0310. $25 per four-person design team; $100 per arts organization, artist, or musician.* **knowbility@knowbility.org**.

COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS This Florida-based group, made up primarily of immigrant workers, is well known for its precedent-setting workers' rights agreements with McDonald's and Taco Bell parent-company Yum Brands (and their ongoing work to strike similar agreements with the likes of Burger King and Austin's own Whole Foods). The local Student/Farmworker Alliance-ATX brings them to town this week for a series of events, beginning with their keynote address *Thu., Feb. 7*, at the **Student Conference on Latin America** (*7pm, Thompson Conference Center, Red River & Dean Keeton*). The following day, they'll be at a special **Florida Farmworkers/ Campaign for Fair Food** photography exhibit showcasing the work of documentary photographer Alan Pogue (*Fri., 8pm, 1604 E. 11th*). You'll find them at the **Burger King Protest** on Saturday (*3pm, MLK statue, East Mall, UT campus*), and then on Sunday, you can join them at the **Fair Food Dinner** (*5-8pm, St. James Episcopal Church, 3707 E. MLK*). *Thu.-Sun., Feb. 7-10.* **www.thirdcoastactivist.org**.

A YEAR IN LETTERING showcases the beautiful handwriting of more than 100 area scribes and calligraphers. *Through Feb. 10. Daily, 7am-7pm. Scarbrough Building, 101 W. Sixth, 477-7884. Free.* **www.ccscribes.com**.

STUDENT CONFERENCE ON LATIN AMERICA brings you three days of panels and workshops featuring scholars from around the world, including a keynote address from **Carlos Gaviria**, co-author of Colombia's constitution in 1992 and presidential candidate in 2006. *Thu.-Sat., Feb. 7-9.* **www.ciw-online.org**

THIS WEEK ONLY

KEEP AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL RAFFLE This month, you can win prizes for supporting Keep Austin Beautiful's environmental stewardship. See **www.keepaustinbeautiful.org** to purchase your tickets. *Drawing: Feb. 6. $10 ($50, six tickets).*

MIDWINTERS 2008 This annual lecture series features three days of moderated discussions, worship services, alumni gatherings, and entertainment from Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins. *Mon.-Wed., Feb. 4-6. Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 100 E. 27th, 472-6736. Free ($12, ASA banquet).* **alum@austinseminary.edu**, **www.austinseminary.edu**.

RE-ENERGIZE TEXAS SUMMIT brings high school and college students together from all over the state for three days of workshops focused on environmentalism and taking action to build a formidable green movement in Texas. Spots are filling up fast, so register soon at **www.climatechallengetexas.org**. *Fri.-Sun., Feb. 1-3. UT campus. $20.*

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING CENTRAL TEXAS FOOD DRIVE Visit one of 59 participating HEB or Randalls grocery stores to participate in this benefit for the **Capital Area Food Bank** either by making a cash donation or by purchasing a prepackaged bag of food for donation to someone in need. See **www.souperbowl.org** for participating locations. *Through Feb. 3.*

STORIES FROM THE HEART IV: NATIONAL WOMEN'S MEMOIR CONFERENCE is all about providing a safe space where you can explore your creative energies to the fullest. Choose your classes from among four different tracks (Creativity, Nuts & Bolts, Putting Our Hearts on Paper, and Myriad Methods of Storytelling), enjoy rubbing elbows with talented writers like keynote speaker Nancy Slonim Aronie, and be sure to check out Saturday night's open mic. *Fri.-Sun., Feb. 1-3. Wyndham Garden Hotel, 3401 S. I-35, 454-9833. $270-320 ($40, Friday keynote; $155-180, Saturday; $135-160, Sunday).* **storycircle@storycircle.org**, **www.storycircle.org**.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

"A Doctor's Confession to the City of Austin…"

And why, despite all, I still help people live pain free…

Dear friend,

Confessions are tough, real tough. But, sometimes a confession can set the record straight, and I want to give credit where credit is due. Before I talk about my confession, though, let me say a few other things first. Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. I'll start with me, the guy on the left.

Something happened to my mother that changed my life forever. My mom told my dad, *"If God has plans to take me tomorrow, I wish he'd just take me today."* At the time I was studying to become a physical therapist. My mom was experiencing neck and shoulder pain. She tried medication, physical therapy and acupuncture without results. I was worried that she would have to live with this pain for the rest of her life.

My mom realized that traditional medicine had nothing more to offer when her medical doctor said the pain was all in her head. She finally made an appointment with a chiropractor. Within a short course of treatment, she was pain-free. I was so inspired and excited about the miracle that occurred, I decided to become a chiropractor.

Can chiropractic help your children? The baby in the photo is Delia, my niece. At two weeks old, she spent most of her days with clenched fists and her knees to her chest. She spent her nights in discomfort—she wouldn't sleep and would vomit often. My frightened sister and brother-in-law brought Delia to her pediatrician. He said she had heartburn and prescribed baby Zantac. She was then brought to a homeopathic doctor who confirmed she had colic. The natural remedies gave her some relief but Delia still couldn't have a bowel movement without pain. At eight weeks old, she received her first chiropractic adjustment. Instantly she had a bowel movement. After six more adjustments, her colic and constipation disappeared.

The boy in the photo is Nick, my nephew. He started experiencing seizures a year ago. An EEG showed spiking brain waves. My brother and his wife were scared that he would have to be on medication the rest of his life. I treated Nick for two months before his next EEG. The results were remarkable –no more spiking brain waves, which meant no more medicine!



Here's what some of my patients had to say:

"I was diagnosed with fibromyalgia in 1995…I couldn't do things most people take for granted… I recently returned to the work force." (S.W).

"I've been like a new person! No more pills. No more nausea, headaches, or abdominal pain." (P.H).

"I had headaches every day…I haven't had a headache in two weeks." (K.H).

Several times a day patients thank me for helping them with their health problems. But I can't really take the credit. **My confession is that *I've never healed anyone of anything.*** What I do is perform a specific spinal adjustment to remove nerve pressure, and the body responds by ***healing itself.*** We get tremendous results. It's as simple as that!

Being a chiropractor can be tough, because there's a host of so-called experts out there. They tell people a lot of things that are just plain ridiculous about my profession. But the studies speak for themselves, like the Virginia study that showed that 99% of patients who saw a chiropractor were satisfied with their results. That's just incredible!

Forty-five million Americans **no longer have health insurance**, and those who do have found that their benefits are reduced. That's where chiropractic comes in. Many people find that they actually save money on their health care expenses by seeing a chiropractor. Another way to save…studies show that chiropractic can double your immune capacity, naturally and without drugs. The immune system fights colds, flues, and other sicknesses. So you may not be running off to the doctor as much. This is especially important if you are **self-employed.** And, an entire week of care in my office may cost what you could pay for **one visit** elsewhere.

Great care at a great fee…

Please, I hope that there's no misunderstanding about **quality of care** just because I have a lower exam fee. You'll get great care at a great fee. Because we have been so successful at helping people get out of pain, we have four offices in Texas & Illinois. Our main location has been helping people for the past 14 years, and we treat over 3000 people in the community. I just have that low fee to help more people who need care.

Our offices are both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We have a wonderful service, at an exceptional fee. Our offices are called **Triple "C" Chiropractic** and were located at:

11130 Jollyville Rd. Ste #201 in Austin.

(1/4 mile west of 183 at the intersection of Jollyville Rd. & Balcones)

You Benefit from an Amazing Offer- Look, it shouldn't cost you an arm and a leg to correct your health. You are going to write a check to someone for your health care expenses, *you may as well write one for a lesser amount for chiropractic.* When you call or bring in this article (by March 2, 2008) you will receive our entire new patient exam for **$27**, that's with x-rays.

This exam could cost you $335 elsewhere. And, further care is very affordable and you'll be happy to know that **I have affordable family plans.**

You see *I'm not trying to entice you to come see me with this low start up fee, then to only make it up with high fees after that.* Further care is very important to consider when making your choice of doctor. **High costs** can add up very quickly.

Our phone number in Austin is:

(512) 343-8333

Call now for an appointment. Thank you.

-Dr. Daniel Grunert

P.S. When accompanied by the first, I am also offering the second family member this same examination **at no charge**.

P.S.S. Can you imagine not having to wait at a doctor's office? You will be seen within minutes of your appointment.

Sports

BY MARK FAGAN

THE MAIN EVENT

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT 'MONDAY NIGHT RAW' WWE is bringing their live cameras and wrestling action to Central Texas for one night only. The talent scheduled to perform includes **Randy Orton**, **Chris Jericho**, **Triple H**, **Shawn Michaels**, **Mr. Kennedy**, **Jeff Hardy**, and more. Tickets available at all Texas Box Office outlets. You can also charge by phone at 477-6060 or 800/982-2386 or online at **www.texasboxoffice.com**. *Mon., Feb. 4, 6pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. $20-60.* **www.uterwincenter.com**, **www.wwe.com/shows/raw**.

OUTLAW NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MOTOR SPECTACULAR Monster trucks. Is there really anything else that needs to be said? All your favorite monster trucks will be in attendance including **Barbarian**, **Sgt. Smash**, **Monster Bucks**, **Monkey'n Around**, and more. *Fri.-Sat., Feb. 1-2, 7:30pm. Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker. $20 ($10, kids ages 3-11; free, kids 2 & under).* **www.mapmotorsports.com**.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS The Magic As Ever world tour bounces into the capital city with family-friendly hoops shenanigans, an autograph session, and the Globetrotters' mascot, **Globie**. *Thu., Feb. 7, 7-9pm. Frank Erwin Center, 477-6060. $15-100.* **www.uterwincenter.com**.

THE HOME TEAMS

AUSTIN TOROS For more on the Toros see **austinchronicle.com/sports**. Vs. Utah: *Fri., Feb. 1, 7pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez. $8-23.* **www.nba.com/dleague/austin**.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Panhandle State: *Thu., Jan. 31, 8pm.* Vs. UT-Permian Basin: *Sat., Feb. 2, 8pm.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Panhandle State: *Thu., Jan. 31, 6pm.* Vs. UT-Permian Basin: *Sat., Feb. 2, 6pm. St. Edward's RCC. $5 ($3 seniors/students; $1, under 12).* **www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm**.

ROUND ROCK EXPRESS WINTER BANQUET Reggie Jackson headlines this awards ceremony honoring outstanding high school, collegiate, and Round Rock Express baseball players. For more, see **austinchronicle.com/sports**. *Wed., Feb. 6, 6pm. United Heritage Center at the Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., 512/238-2210. $75.* **www.roundrockexpress.com**.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Texas Lutheran University: *Thu., Jan. 31, 7:30pm.* Vs. Schreiner University: *Sat., Feb. 2, 3pm.* Vs. University of Mary Hardin Baylor: *Tue., Feb. 5, 7:30pm.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Texas Lutheran University: *Thu., Jan. 31, 5:30pm.* **athletics.concordia.edu**.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. DePauw: *Fri., Feb. 1, 6pm.* Vs. Centre: *Sat., Feb. 2, 6pm.* **Men's Basketball** Vs. DePauw: *Fri., Feb. 1, 8pm.* Vs. Centre: *Sat., Feb. 2, 8pm.* **Baseball** Alumni game: *Sat., Feb. 2, 1pm.* **southwesternpirates.cstv.com**.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Basketball Vs. Baylor: *Sat., Feb. 2, 12:45pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Oklahoma: *Sun., Feb. 3, 1pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River.* **Men's Tennis** Vs. UTSA: *Sun., Feb. 3, noon.* Vs. UT Arlington: *Sun., Feb. 3, 6pm. Penick-Allison Tennis Center, 1701 Trinity.* **Women's Swimming** Vs. Texas A&M: *Sat., Feb. 2, 1pm. Texas Swimming Center, 1900 E. Campus Dr.* **www.texassports.com**.

RECREATION & FITNESS

ROUND ROCK WOMEN'S SPRING SOCCER Register now for the Round Rock Women's Soccer League. Open to ladies 18 and up. Check their website for info on free scrimmages, their 40-plus division, and more. *Old Settler's Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd.* **www.rrwsl.org**.

FIRST SATURDAY AT HARVEY PENICK GOLF COURSE will include lots of new and used golf equipment. Also, there will be a putting and closest-to-the-pin contests, and free 30-minute golf lessons. *Sat., Feb. 2, 8am. Harvey Penick Golf Campus, 5501 Ed Bluestein Blvd., 926-1100.*

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY SCRAMBLE A four-person scramble followed by the big game on a 52-inch plasma HDTV. *Sun., Feb. 3, noon. Lago Vista Golf Club, 4616 Rimrock Dr., 267-1170.* **www.lagovistagolfclub.com**.

CHRONTOURAGE SUPER BOWL WATCHING PARTY If the Chrontourage is in the house, you know good times will be had. Enjoy the game on one of Shoal Creek's 24 TVs along with drink and food specials and a shuffleboard table. *Sun., Feb. 3, 6:30pm. Shoal Creek Saloon, 909 N. Lamar.* **austinchronicle.com/chrontourage**.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

MARDI GRAS 5K features a pleasant run through West Austin neighborhoods (including a children's 1K fun run) with Mardi Gras festivities following. *Sat., Feb. 2, 3pm (fun run), 4pm (5K). St. Gabriel's Catholic School, 2500 Wimberly Ln.* **www.mardigras5k.com**.

IGNITE 5K This RunTex-affiliated event is good for first-time runners as well as the experienced. There'll also be a kids fun run and family-friendly activities that are sure to entertain. Participants are invited to take a peek at Seton's new medical facilities following the race. *Sat., Feb. 2, 8:30am. Seton Medical Center Williamson, 201 Seton Parkway, Round Rock.* **www.goodhealth.com/ignite/smcw_presents_the_ignite_5k**.

Soccer WATCH

The **U.S. Men's National Team** will try to continue their recent domination of rival **Mexico** – nine wins in the last 12 matches overall – this Wednesday at Houston's Reliant Stadium. Feb. 6, 8pm; tickets are $35-300 through Ticketmaster. The game will also be shown live on ESPN2 and Univision.

Arsenal and **Manchester United**, tied atop the English Premier League standings, have been drawn to face each other in the **FA Cup** Round of 16, Feb. 16 at Man U's Old Trafford, where the Reds have outscored opponents 31-3 this season. Luck of the draw, indeed. By contrast, **Liverpool**, who had to come from behind twice to beat semipro **Havant and Waterlooville** in the previous round, drew second-division strugglers Barnsley as their next opponent.

The United Soccer Leagues Premier Development League schedule was announced this week; the **Austin Aztex** open play May 3 at El Paso. See "Playing Through," right, for more, and see the whole schedule at **www.austinaztex.com**.

– Nick Barbaro



Phil Rawlins of the new Austin Aztex

PLAYING THROUGH

BY THOMAS HACKETT

Can it happen here? As much as we hope so, we also don't want to get our hopes up only to see it die a dismal death.

I'm talking about soccer. Professional soccer. Right here in Austin. Last week a local businessman announced the formation of the Austin Aztex, which, starting in April 2009, will be playing in the United Soccer Leagues.

You'll be excused if you've never heard of the United Soccer Leagues. It's not Major League Soccer, whose teams sometimes get a little ink in the press and whose big games sometimes get broadcast on network television. It's a whole other league, with 11 First Division teams from Miami to Montreal, from Portland, Ore., to Puerto Rico.

Coming in under the radar may be the genius of the USL. Naturally, it would like the press, but initial hype of American soccer rarely translates into lasting league success. Anyone remember the National Professional Soccer League? How about the North American Soccer League? For a few months there, back in 1977, with **Pelé** playing for the New York Cosmos, there wasn't a bigger story in sports. Seven years later, with several teams failing to draw even a few thousand fans, the NASL was out of business.

Then there was the Women's United Soccer Association. In 1999, the U.S. national team had won the Women's World Cup in a sold-out championship game that ended with one of the most iconic images in all of sports: **Brandi Chastain** triumphantly tearing off her jersey. A few months later, *Sports Illustrated* named the women its athletes of the year. The first professional women's league began from that win; however, it lasted a mere three seasons, 2001-2003.

Phil Rawlins, the owner of the Aztex, is well aware of the dispiriting history of professional soccer. So are the league officials at USL. They know that Americans love playing soccer but, for whatever reason, don't much like watching it.

"We accept the skepticism – it's in every market," says **Tim Holt**, USL's vice president. "With others, there was this attitude that 'We've got a soccer league now, and we expect you to show up.' But that's not how it works. You've got to develop that connection. You've got to make it so fans feel that they're stakeholders in the league. It's about building relationships."

Holt and Rawlins aren't kidding themselves. They have no illusions about filling the more than 89,000 seats at Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium or even playing there. The most successful franchise in the league, the Montreal Impact, has drawn upward of 11,000 fans. But the average attendance throughout the league is an entirely doable 4,774. The trick, says Rawlins, is to make those few thousand fans feel like a crowd, a focused gathering, and not just a bunch of random people sprinkling an otherwise empty stadium.

It's also important to remember that sports leagues don't happen overnight. The runup can take decades. This weekend, millions of people will watch the Super Bowl. It wasn't always so, however. Until the 1960s, hardly anyone gave a damn about professional football. **Johnny Unitas**, maybe the best quarterback ever, started off making $6 a game. And then, bam! Just like that, football took off.

So who knows?

Tuesday 05

CITYWIDE BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM: CARTER G. WOODSON & THE ORIGINS OF MULTICULTURALISM Rep. Dawnna Dukes is the keynote speaker at this special celebration honoring the founder of Black History Month. *11:30am-1pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4500. Free.*

LEADERSHIP AUSTIN'S ENGAGE SPEAKER SERIES presents **Planting Seeds, Growing Strong Entrepreneurs: Entrepreneurial Support Networks**, a breakfast and panel discussion featuring Titon Ventures founder Laura Kilcrease and Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President Andy Martinez. *7:30-9pm. Chez Zee American Bistro, 5406 Balcones, 499-0435. $25 ($20, members).* **info@leadershipaustin.org**, **www.leadershipaustin.org/programs/engage**.

SIERRA CLUB MEETING features a presentation on climate change and karst aquifers from UT Environmental Science Institute Director Jay Banner. *7pm. LCRA Hancock Building, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. Free.* **www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin**.

UNDERSTANDING HEART DISEASE & YOUR RISK kicks off a four-week series of lunchtime talks about heart disease; bring a brown-bag lunch. *Through Feb. 26. Tuesdays, 11:30am-12:30pm. St. David's Medical Center, Private Dining Room, 919 E. 32nd, 544-4263. Free.* **laura.raymond@stdavids.com**.

WORKSOURCE CAREER FAIR Wear a suit! Bring a résumé! Get a job! *10am-1:30pm. WorkSource Career Center, 6505 Airport Blvd. Ste. 101-A, 454-WORK. Free.* **www.worksourceaustin.com**.

TAXPAYER WEBINARS (See Monday.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Harry Ransom Center

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
El Bruto *@ Alamo Ritz, 7pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Zoroaster *Emo's*
Church of the Friendly Ghost Night *Salvage Vanguard Theater*

Wednesday 06

AUSTIN PERMACULTURE GUILD WINTER TALK SERIES Tonight you'll watch "The Next Industrial Revolution," a short film about architect Bill McDonough and chemist Michael Braungart, the innovative and inspiring duo that is helping companies all over the world profit from sustainability. *7-9pm. Habitat Suites, 500 E. Highland Mall Blvd., 619-5363. Free.* **www.austinprogressivecalendar.com**, **www.permie.us**.

BRASS OVARIES POLE DANCING CLASS Learn the erotic art of pole dancing in this introductory class for women of all sizes and fitness levels. *7:30-9pm. Forbidden Fruit, 108 E. North Loop, 453-8090. $25 ($20, in advance).* **info@forbiddenfruit.com**, **www.forbiddenfruit.com/workshops.htm**.

CATALYST 8: SUPPORT FOR THE LONG CENTER This dynamic professionals' group, with support from the Austin Music Foundation and the Austin Film Society, holds its inaugural BoostCamp panel discussion, **Launching Your Arts or Film Career to the Next Level**, featuring artist Andrew Long, Salvage Vanguard Theater Artistic Director Jason Neulander, AdBongo's John Bush, playwright Amparo Garcia-Crow, and others. Recommended. *6:30-9pm. Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747. $10.* **www.thelongcenter.org**.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Feb. 15 issue is Monday, Feb. 4**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Kate X Messer or Kate Getty (The Gay Place): **gayplace@austinchronicle.com**.

Mark Fagan (Sports): **gameplans@austinchronicle.com**.

Nora Ankrum (everything else): **calendar@austinchronicle.com**.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor, 454-5766 or **brenner@austinchronicle.com**.

CLOTHING SWAP Trade out your old clothes in return for some *new* old ones! Snacks and music provided. *7-9pm. The Opera House, 2209-K S. First, 440-1401. $2.* **www.theoperahousestore.com**.

KEEP AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL AWARDS LUNCHEON honors Austin's hardest-working environmental stewards. *11am-1pm. Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 391-0622. $60 ($500, table of eight).* **alanna@keepaustinbeautiful.org**, **www.keepaustinbeautiful.org**.

THE GIFT OF EQUUS Did you know that working with horses can help you develop your nonverbal communication skills and improve your relationships? Life coach Koelle Simpson shows you how in this special workshop. *6:30-9pm. The Crossings, 13500 FM 2769, 877/944-3003. Free.* **jbartlett@thecrossingsaustin.com**, **www.thecrossingsaustin.com**.

BILINGUAL POWER YOGA FLOW (See Sunday.)

DANCE (See Arts Listings.)
Pilobolus *Paramount Theatre*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
***There Will Be Blood* With Co-Star Russell Harvard** *@ Alamo Ritz, 8:30pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Nina Nastasia *Mohawk*
The Black, **the Viet Minh**, **Shapes Have Fangs** *Club de Ville*

Thursday 07

CANINE NUTRITION SEMINAR Find out how your dog's allergies and other problems may be related to diet in this seminar about the canine digestive system, the dog-food industry, and the benefits of raw foods. Call to RSVP. *6:30-7:30pm. The Furr Factor, 2210 S. First, 502-5750. Free.* **www.thefurrfactor.com**.

NATIONAL BLACK HIV AIDS AWARENESS DAY The Wright House Wellness Center hosts this all-day event providing free, confidential HIV/STD testing and featuring slam poetry, step performances, free food, prize giveaways, and more. *11:30am-5pm. ACC Eastview, 3401 Webberville, 223-5173. Free.* **www.thewrighthouse.org**.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS: CITY WEBSITE REDESIGN (See Monday.) *7pm. J.J. Pickle Research Campus, Commons Center, 10100 Burnet Rd. Free.*

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Salvage Vanguard Theater

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
***Spiral* @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 12mid**

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
El Paso Hot Button *Mohawk*
Daniel Francis Doyle Record Release *Emo's*
Til We're Blue or Destroy, **the Carrots**, **Many Birthdays** *Antone's*

the GAY *place*

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER This is the 11th year for the progressive dinner that's all about progress. It starts out with dinner for more than 350 guests at several beautiful homes, hosted by supporters of **Project Transitions**, the HIV/AIDS nonprofit beneficiary. Then, everybody meets at **Nest** for a Champagne toast, some dessert, and some impressive support for such a worthy cause. Chin-chin. *Sat., Feb. 2, 7pm. 454-8646. $100.* **www.projecttransitions.org**.

PORGY AND BESS DINNER ON CATFISH ROW Get NOLA-fied! **Trio** presents a preshow feast where you may ravish a grand three-course spread to celebrate the Big Easy inspiration of Monsoir Steakley's reimagined take on *Porgy and Bess*. Catfish Row transforms into New Orleans for this Zach Scott Mardi Gras-fueled version of the Gershwins' opera. Come taste the inspiration! The package includes valet parking and a gift certificate for spa services. Show tickets sold separately. *Preshow dinner at TRIO: Jan 31, Feb. 1-3. TRIO at the Four Seasons, 98 San Jacinto, 685-8300. $49.* **www.opentable.com**.

HOTNESS Feast your musical senses on talented kids who know how to rock. Khattie and her gang the **Hot as Shits** play with **Nicky Click**, who Austin is very, very, very, very lucky to welcome to our Third Coast. Live music queer capital. *Thu., Jan. 31, 9pm. Chain Drive, 504 Willow, 480-9017.*

BLOGGIN' THE GAY PLACE Check for a slew of Louisiana and Texas **Mardi Gras** fun in the cybersphere on the **Gay Place** blog and on our design blog, **Chronique**. Maybe win yourself a nice unicorn or T-shirt or something. Or go naked for all we care. (You can do that while you read a blog.) *454-5766.* **gayplace@austinchronicle.com**, **austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog**, **austinchronicle.com/chronique**.

DIGGIN' IN THE GARDEN Tennessee Williams is pretty gay. And this play, no doubt, follows suit. **Garden District: *Something Unspoken*/*Suddenly Last Summer*** are two of Tennessee's wee pieces, directed here by **Norman Blumensaadt**, and featuring you-may-have-heard-of-her **Rebecca Havemeyer** (aka Paul Soileau; don't ask, we told). Look, it's fit for queens. And full of 'em. *Fri.-Sat., Feb. 1-2, 8pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084.*

GAYRIBBEAN HALLOWEEN CRUISE 2008 Yes, it's January. That gives you about nine months to pull together that perfect costume for all the perfect parties aboard (and ashore) for this spooky cruise. *Sail from Galveston aboard Carnival's Conquest to Montego Bay, Grand Cayman and Cozumel. 877-560-8318. From $568.* **info@gayribbean.com**, **www.gayribbeancruises.com**.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ALLGO AND THE KINGS *Now* is the time to buy your tickets for not one but two homo happenings on the horizon. First. Dance. **The Glamorous Life: Baile XXIII**: *Sat., Feb. 9, 8pm, Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River, 472-2001 x101 or* **lorenzo@allgo.org**, *$30 ($25, advance).* That's a cha-cha-cha. Now, what about love? It sucks (bites ... blows ...). How about some kings and queens to really let you have it? **Kings N Things** presents: **Love Is a Four-Letter Word**: *Fri., Feb. 8, 9pm, Elysium, 705 Red River, 478-2979, 21 and over, $10.*

UPRISE! FOR VALENTINE'S They ask for what they want: divas, dominatrices, kings, queens, and coquettes. Already feels warm, down there. **UpRise! Productions** is looking for volunteers and performers for their sexy and sassy **Hot Thang!** (Haven't heard yet? It's a sex-positive Valentine's ball at the Monarch Event Center.) Wanna help usher, set up, strike, and perform in the interactive maze. Yes, we said "interactive maze." Curious? Give a call. *928-5864.*

POWERHOUSE OF PRIDE United we stand. Divided, we don't ... thus, eight local LGBT-affiliated groups in Austin have banded together to form the **Pride Coalition**. (Parenthetical alert!) Check out all the acronyms standing together for change! Power in numbers (and letters!): **AGLCC** (Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce), **ALLGO** (Austin Latina/o Lesbian/Gay Organization), **Atticus Circle** (y'all need an acronym!), **PFLAG** (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), **ET** (Equality Texas), **HRC** (Human Rights Campaign), **OY Austin** (Out Youth), and **TACT** (Transgender Advocates of Central Texas). **community@aglcc.org**, **www.aglcc.org/75/strengthen_the_community.htm**.

FIRST FRIDAY DINNER CLUB This group of professional gay men and women meets on the first Friday of each month. Hence the name. *Fri., Jan. 4.* **joshloker@prideofaustin.com**, **firstfridays-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**.

10 HOT STEPS TO A HOTTER, STEPPIER YOU With a new name for the new year, **Austin's Hot Steppers**, the GLBT salsa group, announces **Open Call** for membership and help in planning this new movement of spice. Come check out their first organizational meeting to figure out how to shake yer bon-bon, shake yer bon-bon. *Sun., Feb. 24, 5pm. Epoch Coffee, 221 W. North Loop, 454-EPOC.* **austingaysalsa@yahoo.com**.

CAP & GOWN This year when you move your tassel from left to right, chuck that octagon-shape into the air, and say, "Finally. I'm gradu-ma-tated." Why not be screaming it, like, "We're here, we're queer, we finished our senior year?" Yes, 'tis true, for the first year ever, UT is organizing a **Lavender Graduation** (hmmmm, purple and burnt orange). For homos. We love it. (*Deadline to sign up: March 3.*) **www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/gsc/lavenderform.php**.

LUNA TART DIED: A MUSICAL An hourlong Frontera debut, a musical spiral of cabaret musical spirals. Add a ukelele, a piano, **Laura Freeman**, **Rudy Ramirez** directing, and we've got pain, pleasure, and the excitement of a one-woman avant-garde show. (Check for CampCamp counselor friend-faces offering the intro to this delight.) *Sat., Feb. 2, 4:15pm. The Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 927-1118.* **www.myspace.com/lunatart**.

***For more gay stuff, see Calendar online:* austinchronicle.com. *Send gay bits to* gayplace@austinchronicle.com.**





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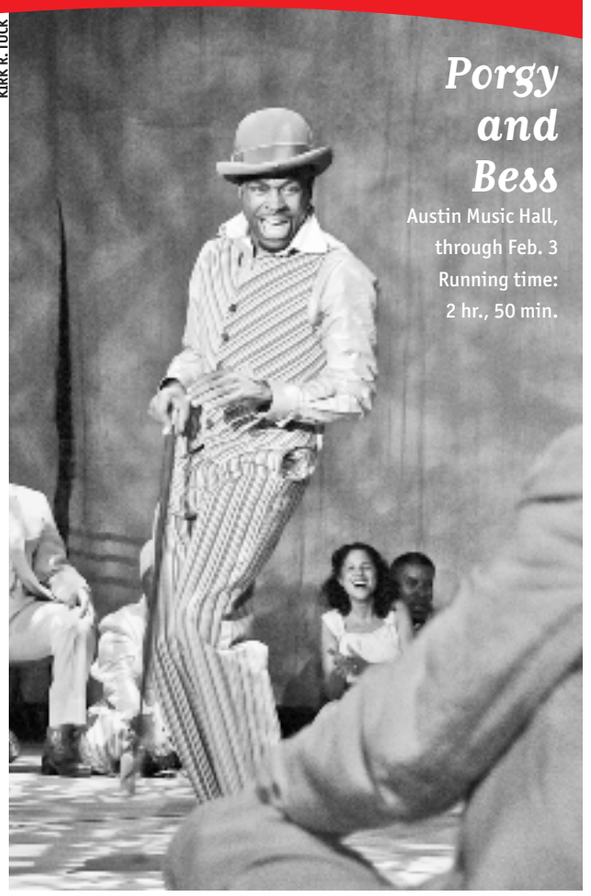
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RM #2685/5/07_V2



The folks who live on Catfish Row don't have much. That's never more apparent than when the newly widowed Serena Robbins must depend upon the generosity of her neighbors to raise the $25 it will take to have her husband buried. And even with their dead friend's body in front of them, they're unable to scrape together $20. That's how little they have to live on. And yet the man who is the poorest of the poor in this South Carolina community, a beggar who depends on a pair of crutches just to get around, sings, "I got plenty o' nuttin', and nuttin's plenty for me." And though he's sitting on the plainest of wooden chairs, he looks like a king on a throne. What he has, he tells us with pride, are things that matter more than money: the sun, the moon, a song, and the woman he loves.

The Zachary Scott Theatre Center's ambitious new production of *Porgy and Bess* says a lot about those things that matter more than money and how great things can come from little. That may seem a contradiction given that this may be the biggest, most expensive production ever mounted by the theatre, with 35 performers and Michael Raiford's two-story set spanning the Austin Music Hall's broad stage. But the point has less to do with the scale of the show or what was spent on it than it does with Dave Steakley's approach to the story and what he mines from it. The Zach artistic director has pared away one-fifth of George Gershwin's original 3½-hour opera and, with arranger Greg Bolin, scaled the orchestra down to just nine musicians. That means the sound doesn't boast the lushness of a full complement of strings or horns, but what is sacrificed in grandeur is made up for in soulfulness and character. This is a production that finds expression for its characters' epic passions in the idiosyncratic, richly personal rhythms of jazz and gospel, with each musical line coming forth in its own distinctive way, shaded by the peculiar history and yearnings of the individual giving it voice.

That serves to make this Catfish Row a community even livelier and richer in color than it might be in a more traditional version. It aches with tenderness as Sacha Crosby's Clara croons "Summertime" to her baby, wallows in grief when Judy Arnold's Serena wails over the loss of her husband, struts when Janis Stinson's Maria joyously leads the way to the picnic on Kittiwah Island, cringes when David St. Louis' fearsome Crown rages, like a man with a blazing furnace inside him. It can't help but be animated when Cedric Neal's Sportin' Life is slithering around. The actor has a serpentine grace in his moves and in his voice, and he slinks around, peddling sin in the form of cocaine and rolling bones, as if he just slid over from the Garden of Eden, the Tempter in green. (But does Stinson's Maria give him what for with her steamroller take on "I Hates Your Struttin' Style." Wow!)

Then there are the lovers. Marva Hicks' Bess is introduced as the embodiment of the scarlet woman, weaving behind Crown in a lurid red dress, but she responds beautifully to the pure, honest affection of David Jennings' Porgy, who projects an inner calm like a windless sea. His joy in her beams from him like sunshine, and it's no wonder she is transformed by it. Hicks shows us a Bess touchingly humbled and grateful for this love, and when they sing together, though Hicks and Jennings do not move, their voices dance around each other with a grace that ballet dancers would envy.

It's a moment that couldn't be staged more simply, and yet it takes us to the heart of this moment and these people. We see that again and again in this show, as when a hurricane blows through Catfish Row, and Steakley places the survivors on the rooftops of houses, mist rolling under them like the steam rising off floodwaters. In an instant, we're thrown back into the aftermath of Katrina and the suffering of those who endured that storm, powerfully connected to the despair of these souls. In the scene that follows, we see these same people cleaning up their town, reclaiming their lives. It's an image that's echoed at the play's end, when Porgy, who should be devastated to learn that Bess has resumed her old ways and left for New York with Sportin' Life, instead vows to follow and find her. One can be the poorest of the poor and still have will and love and hope. His departure, with a gospel-fueled version of "Oh Lawd, I'm on My Way," is inspirational, a lesson to us all. – *Robert Faires*

Theatre

OPENING

HENRY V The Velvet Rut Theatre Company, under the direction of Japhy Fernandes (who also plays the title role), provides a, we reckon, unique look at Shakespeare's classic of war and leadership. *Through Feb. 23. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Velvet Rut, 1612 E. Seventh, 236-1092. Donations accepted.*

THE SHAPE OF THINGS City Theatre presents this dark comedy by Neil LaBute that shakes up the lives of a trio of friends and explores modern love, jealousy, and (of course – it's LaBute) manipulation. Directed by Skip Johnson. *Through Feb. 10. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5:30pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 524-2870. $15-25 ($12, students; pay what you can, Thursdays).* **www.citytheatreaustin.org**.

COWBOY NOISES This is a world premiere from the critically acclaimed co-author and co-star of the hit *Greater Tuna* comedies, **Jaston Williams**. This inspired solo performance offers a journey through time, space, and memory as Williams recounts traveling east to adopt a 7-year-old boy. *Fri.-Sat., Feb. 1-2, 8pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 866/443-8849. $25-$40.* **www.gettix.net**.

ROT Mildred's Umbrella and Bobbindoctrin Puppet Theatre haul themselves up from Houston to present this John Harvey fantasy about "a husband dying of the plague … a daughter who, after setting the world on fire and destroying the sun, comes home to find out what happened to her dog … puppets in the furniture, remembering what the family would like to forget," and other such phantasmagoria. *Fri.-Sat., Feb., 1-2, 8pm, The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 832/418-0973. $13.* **www.mildredsumbrella.com**.

THE COLOSSEUM California's Darkhorse Entertainment brings this "series of mock wrestling matches that combine a comedy script, dance music, wrestling parody, and sexy traditional, oil, and strip wrestling" to – where else? – Arts on Real, featuring local actor/wrestler/hotties choreographed by Donnie and Bianca Dierks. It's all rather Greco-Roman, so to speak, and you have to be 21 or older to attend. *Feb. 1-16. Fri., 9pm; Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. Arts on Real Theatre, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787. $25-35.* **www.artsonreal.com**.

TRANSFORMATIONS Megan M. Reilly's new performance piece, inspired by the poetry of Anne Sexton, uses elements of film, dance, and theatre to explore the existing and perceived roles of women in society. *Feb. 1-10. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. $15.* **www.cambiareproductions.com**.

VAUDEVILLE TONIGHT! This revue of song, dance, and comedy features young performers and is written and directed by Engela Edwards of Easy Theatre Company. *Feb. 1-2. Fri., 7pm; Sat., 3pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 303-5516. $5.* **www.easytheatre.com/vaudeville-tonight-08.html**.

THE DIONYSIUM OMG, the Dionysium changes dates and venues! It's still at the Alamo, of course, but now Downtown. And on the first *Wednesday* of every month. Buzz Moran and L.B. Deyo present a diverse collection of intellectual and aesthetic delights from our smartest citizens, including a (heated, we reckon) debate, a scientifical lecture, various musical interludes and japery, Graham Reynolds on keyboards, and everything fueled by sweet, sweet alcohol (well, beer and wine) in tribute to mighty Dionysus. *Wed., Feb. 6, 7pm. Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320. $8.* **www.dionysium.com**.

THROWS LIKE A GIRL: BLUE STATE RANTS (IN A RED STATE ECOLOGY) This year's version of the fierce and female performance series, presented (as always) by Rude Mechanicals, features a trio of women who will likely set your soul on fire. No, that's a *good* thing, especially as exemplified in the first show of this series: The irrepressible **Reno**, the woman who *Newsday* called "Rush Limbaugh's vision of the Antichrist." Recommended. *Thu.-Sat., Feb. 7-9, 8pm*. Coming up next: **Kristina Wong** and **Robbie McCauley**. *The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 389-0315. $12-25.* **www.rudemechs.com**.

YOU ARE PRETTY True, but the St. Idiot Collective is even prettier, we think, and they're premiering a dark comedy about a modern-day brothel, written by Adrienne Dawes, directed by Jenny Larson, performed all site-specific in a private home, and featuring Lee Eddy, Cyndi Williams, David Yeakle, Carra Martinez, Michael Joplin, Alan Metoskie, and Travis Hale. Funny as hell, romantic as roses, and rigorously debauched. *Feb. 7-23. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Hippie Ho House (see website for directions). $14 ($17, first night, includes goody bag).* **www.youarepretty.eventbrite.com**

CLOSING

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: GARDEN DISTRICT This is a double bill of Williams' classic one-acts – *Suddenly Last Summer* and *Something Unspoken* – directed by Norman Blumensaadt for Different Stages, featuring Sharon Elmore, Jenni Underwood, and other fine actresses. *Through Feb. 2. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. 474-8497. $15-30.* **www.main.org/diffstages**.

PORGY AND BESS The classic musical by the Gershwins, reinvented along the lines of Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald, and Louis Armstrong and directed by Dave Steakley? It's likely to be such a hot and jazzy time, Zach Scott Theatre might just spontaneously combust. David Jennings and Marva Hicks lead a big cast of talents in this roof-raising revival. (See review above.) *Through Feb. 3. Wed.-Fri., 7:30pm; Sat., 2 & 7:30pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541.* **www.zachscott.com**.

ONGOING

MARATHON Greek myth and local legend merge in this reading (with live music) of a new play by Jesse Sublett and Darden Smith. Directed by Richard M. Isackes. *Sun., Feb. 10 & 17, 7pm. Continental Club gallery, 1315 S. Congress. Free.*

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES Austin Playhouse presents Christopher Hampton's stage adaptation of the sexy French novel by Choderlos de Laclos. Co-directed by Don Toner and Lara Toner, featuring Babs George as La Marquise de Merteuil, Gray G. Haddock as Valmont, and Janet Hurley Kimlicko as Tourvel. *Through Feb. 24. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress Bldg. C, 476-0084. $24-28 (half price for students).* **www.austinplayhouse.com**.

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM Stephen Sondheim's classic and fast-paced comedy is given a go by the Palace Theatre out in Georgetown, with Ron Watson directing the funniest Roman farce since Caligula made his horse a senator. *Through Feb. 10. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. $20 ($18, seniors; $8, students, children).* **www.thegeorgetownpalace.org**.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Feb. 15 issue is Monday, Feb. 4**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy. **brenner@austinchronicle.com**.

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical. **dance-classical@austinchronicle.com**.

Ric Williams, litera. **litera@austinchronicle.com**.

Benné Rockett, visual arts. **art@austinchronicle.com**.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor. **brenner@austinchronicle.com**.



FronteraFest Short Fringe, Week Two

Hyde Park Theatre, Jan. 23

While attending a Short Fringe Best of the Week show ensures at least some measure of previous audience approval, showing up on any given weeknight is a bit like fishing with untested bait: You might catch a few big ones, or, well, you might catch nothing. Ahh, the magic of FronteraFest! Luckily, Wednesday's show from the second week was a nice catch, chock-full of good laughs and provocative moments.

"Amusing Karl Marx" tries to explain how to woo the intelligent man. This is no simple matter. Though the intelligent man – in this case, the blustery Marx – clearly falls into the traditional romantic pitfalls like strewn rose petals and lacy garments, he is so self-involved that he can't leave his work long enough for some loving. Writer Francisco Rodriguez is hilarious as the meek and unaware Marx, though apparently girls are looking for more Joseph Stalin in their lovers.

After making the first week's Best of the Week showcase with "The Weiner Chronicles," Alex Garza returned with a new set of monologues titled "The Bumblebee Saga." The storytellers in these pieces are everyday people struggling with the fragility of life and the choices they've made. High on sentimentality but lacking in defining details, Garza's tales wonder at what portents the future holds.

Loaded Gun Theory's "The Nymph" puts the mythological in a commonplace context. A modern-day mother and daughter, feuding about MP3 players and a divorce, get stuck in high water, where they happen upon a river nymph clad in a fedora and khaki shorts with one fierce black beard. Part hobo and part bacchanal, this nymph is inclined to play the kinds of dastardly tricks his ilk is known for.

The highlight of Wednesday's show was Aimee Gonzalez's outstanding and hilarious "Larius Likler." Excerpted from a longer Austin Script Works piece, "Likler" focuses on neurotic germophobe Larius and his offbeat family. His elder sister is knocked up, his precocious younger sister has chosen to rename herself Condom, their mother is missing, and their father is taking it in stride as best he can. Full of quirky characters and witty one-liners, this excerpt had the audience wishing to see the whole play.

The comedy styling of improv duo Suspicious Package capped off Wednesday's show. The improvisers each took a cue from the audience – the lyric "Let It Be" and the nickname Weenie – and incorporated them into their scenes as best they could. Suspicious Package seemed particularly fearless of failing onstage, and a few miscues were easily outweighed by their sidesplitting successes.

On any given night, FronteraFest delivers surprises, and so far it seems that most of the ones this year have been quite pleasant. If you want to test your audience luck with a night of Short Fringe, remember to book your tickets in advance; these shows have been selling out almost every night. – *Avimaan Syam*

FronteraFest 15

The five-week juggernaut of short theatre returns to brighten the dark of what passes for winter here in the capital city. Austin Script Works and Hyde Park Theatre team up to present this sprawling anthology of original works – no longer than 25 minutes each – from locals and intrepid out-of-towners. That's the renowned Short Fringe, but there are full-length works, too, in the Long Fringe. Brilliant monologues? Plays in progress? Comedy improv? Cabaret singers? Avant-garde dance? Short films? Multimedia? Yes: any of those, any given night. Call for reservations, check the HPT website for details: **www.hydeparktheatre.org**.

SHORT FRINGE AT HYDE PARK THEATRE, *511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY*

Thu., Jan. 31: "**Plum**," by Cris Edwards. **I Snood Bear** improv by Wesley Bain and Christina de Roos. "**Grading on a Curve**," by A.V. Phibes. "**Stewardess**," by Don Corr. "**The Wussy Boy Chronicles Episode Four: A New Hope**," by Big Poppa E.

Fri., Feb. 1: "**The Pinpricks**," by Dolores Judith Diaz. "**Informal Conversación**," by Jennifer Salazar. "**How to Get Rich**," by Tommy Levrier. "**The Perfect Snowball**," by Candyce Rusk. "**Lovey & Lovey**" stars ColdTowne's Tami Nelson and Michael Jastroch.

Sat., Feb. 2: **Best of the Week**

Tue., Feb. 5: "**Vivid**," by Kirsten Davis. "**Honor**," by Austin Alexander. "**The Triumphant Return of the Haiku Deathmatch!**" by Eirik Ott. "**The Well**," by Erin Phillips. "**Scissor**," improv by Justin York.

Wed., Feb. 6: "**How Little Has Changed**," an ASW commision by Max Langert. "**Starting Roger Taylor**," by Maggie Gallant. "**The One, the Only, the Fabi: An Infomercial**," by Rhonda Kulhanek. "**The Proud Pornographer**," by Kyle Schmidt. **Blacklisted Individuals** offer hip-hop for the working man.

Thu., Feb. 7: "**Just Say Da: Direct Object**," by Jamie Rhodes, Jude Hickey, Kirk German, Lisa del Rosario, Michelle Brandt, Robin Grace Thompson, Scott Roskilly, Tom Coiner, and Heather Huggins. "**Click**," by Allan Baker. "**In One Hole, Out the Other, the Eat 'N' Out**," by Fred Jones, Zachary Claxton, Douglas Spearman, and Eddie Shannon. "**The Cowgirl Mary Puppet Theatre Show**," by RoHo Theatre Company. "**Arts & Crafts**," by Annie La Ganga.

LONG FRINGE AT THE BLUE THEATRE, *916 Springdale, 479-PLAY*

You Are Happier Than You Think: Recalibrating Your Emotional Scale by Max Langert. (60 min.) An esteemed lecturer is invited to give a happiness seminar aboard an ocean liner. But his daughter has a compulsion to throw people overboard, and his wife has run out of anti-depressants … *Thu., Jan. 31, 9:15pm; Sat., Feb. 2, 6:15pm; Sun., Feb. 3, noon.*

Luna Tart Died (of a Broken Heart) by Laura Freeman. (75 min.) One woman. One ukulele. One long-suffering pianist. This musical spiral into loneliness and despair is a full-length version of the 2007 Best of the Fest musical. *Sat., Feb. 2, 4:15pm.*

Dance Carousel curated by Spank Dance Company. (75 min.) Forty dances in 40 minutes by 10 local choreographers, each of whom creates four one-minute dances. *Sat., Feb. 2, 2:15pm.*

Lost/Found by Surface Tension Dance Group. (90 min.) This new company of dancers, musicians, and visual artists explores the theme of lost and found literally, abstractly, personally, and spiritually. *Sun., Feb. 3, 5:30pm.*

Devil in the Details: An Office Musical by Rain Nox. (75 min.) A kindhearted geek becomes embroiled in a crazy love triangle – between him, a co-worker, and his computer. *Sun., Feb. 3, 3:30pm.*

Sad, Sad, Sad: Parts 1 & 2 by You're Wicked! Repertory Theatre Company. (90 min.) Two thrilling and surreal one-acts by Duncan Coe and Nigel O'Hearn. *Thu., Jan. 31, 7pm; Sat., Feb. 2, 10:15pm.*

The Mommy Confessions by Rhonda F. Kulhanek. (90 min.) A one-woman show of 12 characters struggling to survive their maternal lives, including a memaw raising her grandkids, a former beauty queen who comes clean at Mommies Anonymous, and an unwed mother-to-be. *Fri., Feb. 1, 9:15pm; Sat., Feb. 2, 8pm.*

Jack and the King by the Striking Players. (60 min.) Austin Alexander's political satire questions authority while making fun of it. Directed by Sesar Sandoval. *Fri., Feb. 1, 11:30pm; Sun., Feb. 3, 7:45pm.*

Prepare for Arrival and Cross Check by Steve Barney. (60 min.) This new work is based on the real-life experiences of flight attendants: atrocious passenger behavior, heartless airline management, post-9/11 flying, and more. *Sun., Feb. 3, 1:45pm.*

I Google Myself by Capital T Theatre. (90 min.) Jason Schafer's comedic thriller features three different men with the same name – a stalker, a gay porn star, and a stoner mechanic – brought together by an internet search engine. *Fri., Feb. 1, 7pm.*

Paper Weight by UT doctoral and Master's of Fine Arts students. (90 min.) Michelle Dvoskin, Kristin Leahey, Elizabeth McKetta, Priscilla Sample, and Meg Sullivan portray diverse women (Virginia Woolf, Joan Nestle, Zelda Fitzgerald, Margo Jones, and Margaret Bourke-White) in separate solo performances. *Sat., Feb. 2, noon.*

BRING YOUR OWN VENUE AT THE HIDEOUT, *617 Congress, 479-PLAY.*

Shoeless, or the Advantages of Not Knowing Exactly Where You Are Going by Devin Moss and Bree Perlman, from a story by Donald Barthelme. (75 min.) *Who Am I?* is America's favorite game show. The stakes are too horrible to even talk about. The prize is a ridiculous compensation considering the infamy. Dreams shattered. Identities destroyed. Now, *that*'s entertainment! *Thu.-Sat., Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 8pm.*

SHAKESPEARE IN HOLLYWOOD It's 1934, and Shakespeare's most famous fairies, Oberon and Puck, have magically materialized on the Warner Bros. Hollywood set of Max Reinhardt's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Instantly smitten by the glitz and glamour of show biz, the two are ushered onto the silver screen to play themselves … and hilarity ensues. Written by Ken Ludwig, directed by Lynn Beaver. *Through Feb. 9. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Sam Bass Community Theatre, 600 N. Lee St., Round Rock, 512/244-0440.* **www.sambasstheatre.com**.

BEIRUT Alan Bowne's stark and compelling drama, set in a near future where people are imprisoned for contracting a sexually transmitted (and potentially fatal) disease, returns to the Vortex stage after many years, starring the (newlywed) husband-and-wife team of Matthew Patterson and Melissa Vogt-Patterson. Directed by Bonnie Cullum, and rife with nudity and explicit material; for adults only. *Through Feb. 9. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. $10-30 (two-for-one with two nonperishable food items for SafePlace, Thursdays).* **www.vortexrep.org**.

DINNER THEATRE

A CRUISE SHIP CRIME Gary Payne and his madcap Capital City Mystery Players present this humor-laced, interactive sleuthing caper where *you* help to solve the mystery of thefts and murder aboard "the luxury cruise ship *Titanium*." With full-course Italian fare sating your appetite as you go. *Through Feb. 2. Saturdays, 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. $29.95.* **www.meatballs.com**.

AUDITIONS

FUNNY LADIES WANTED! Wanted, specifically, for the second annual **Ladies Are Funny Festival**, April 24-26, at the Hideout Downtown, sponsored by Girls Girls Girls and the Austin Improv Collective. It's a big deal and a great event to be involved with. They're looking for all-female improv and sketch troupes, one-woman shows, dance troupes, stand-up – anything, really, as long as it's funny and a live performance by females. Submit via snail mail: 1) a good-quality DVD or VHS tape of a recent (no more than 1-year-old) performance (or a link to your video on the Web); 2) the name of your contact person, phone number(s), and e-mail address; 3) a list of names of performers/tech/musicians/roadies you'll be bringing; 4) your website URL if you have one; 5) a disc containing a 300-dpi photo of your troupe/self and a logo; 6) a paragraph describing your troupe/act, for inclusion on the LAFF website and marketing materials; 7) any press, etc., on your act. Note: *There is no submission fee.* Mail to: *Girls Girls Girls: LAFF, PO Box 301026, Austin, TX 78703.* Deadline: *Feb. 15.*

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Austin Shakespeare seeks professional actors for Shakespeare's romantic comedy, to be directed by Ann Ciccolella. All ethnicities encouraged. Women (ages 15-60); men (ages 18-65). Rehearsals begin March 25; performances run April 23-May 25. Some pay. E-mail for appt. **austix@austix.com**.

STOP KISS is a play by Diana Son, to be directed by Karen Jambon for Different Stages in April and May. Seeking: women and men (ages 26-50). All ethnicities encouraged to apply. Scripts available at the ACoT office; read before auditioning. Call for appt. *Mon.-Tue., Feb. 11-12, 7-9pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 453-7943.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940 Written by John Bishop, to be directed by Ron Watson at Georgetown's Palace Theatre. And, surprise, it's *not* a musical. Seeking: women and men (ages 20-55). Prepare a three-minute comic monologue. E-mail for appt. *Sat., Feb. 2, 2pm; Mon., Feb. 4, 7pm. Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469.* **auditions@thegeorgetownpalace.org**.

THEATRE CALL BOARD

LANGUAGE OF SHAKESPEARE: TWO CLASSES Austin Shakespeare alum Matthew Radford offers two separate classes on the Bard's verse and prose, exploring the ways Shakespeare uses meter and rhetoric to communicate with his actors and to define and develop his characters. *Saturdays, Feb. 2 & 9, 1-4pm. Scottish Rite, 207 W. 18th, 472-7247. $40 for one class; $70, for both.* **www.austinshakespeare.org**.

Comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. **www.capcitycomedy.com**.

Jo Koy This guy's been all over your late-night TV and was part of Carlos Mencia's Punisher tour. Now he's coming to Cap City, with our own legal-eagle jackanapes **John Ramsey** opening. *Feb. 5-9. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. $5.50-44.95.*

Bengt Washburn His first name is pronounced "bent," OK, and he's a former winner of the San Francisco Comedy Competition, and he tours the hell out of these United States. He's soon to hit Cap City, with opener **Paul Oddo**, because you can never have too many unusual names onstage at one time, am I right? *Jan. 31-Feb. 2. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. $5.50-44.95.*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803 Airport. **www.coldtowne.com**.

Improv Out the Wazoo Some of Austin's best stand-up and (especially) improv in this weekly mix: **Parallelogramophonograph**, the cutest improvisers in town, add to their own varied delights with the likes of **Junk** for a night of impromptu concept-stretching and random brilliance. *Thursday, 8pm*. **The Cage Match: Nightmare Forest** This shit's got more comic chakra than a nine-tailed fox demon with a whoopee cushion. And this is the final showdown. *Thursday, 10pm*. **UpTowne** is ColdTowne's foray into the scripted world of sketch comedy, searing like old-school *SNL* when they're really cookin'. *Friday, 8pm*. ***That Other Paper* presents Punchline**. The popular stand-up showcase continues, fracturing funny bones every weekend. *Friday, 10pm*. **Stool Pigeon** features a mystery guest in a sort of modified Armando, thus jump-starting the shenanigans that ensue. *Saturday, 8pm*. **ColdTowne Academy Level 5 Graduation Blowout** The mighty house troupe rocks your night with their newly matriculated army of improv minions. Well, maybe not *minions*. Protegés, more like. Yeah. *Saturday, 10pm*.

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. **www.esthersfollies.com**.

Esther's Follies: World Gone Wild The most popular troupe in town returns with their riotous musical send-ups of local and national politics and cultural phenomena, making already hot topics burn with a bright comic intensity, with the incredible and – *ai! ai! ai!* – spicy illusions of master magician **Ray Anderson**. Thrills! Chills! Ripped-from-the-headlines events turned into comedy gold! *Reservations highly recommended. Thu.-Fri, 8pm; Sat., 8 & 10pm. $20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional $5 for special reserved seats.*

Banana Puddin' Time Tom Booker, comedy impresario from L.A., has moved to Austin and is running this new show at Esther's Pool: A mixture of comedic sketches, improv, stand-up comedy, and silly songs. Austin's most entertaining talents are promised, and you'll get free banana pudding with each paid admission. *Thursdays, 9:30pm. $9.95.*

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688.

You want some laughs with that? Yes, Austin happily boasts two epicenters of great improv, and this – the *original*, y'might say – is one of them. It's totally Downtown, too, for your sense of humor-and-awe's convenience:

Friday: It's **Threefer Madness** time, in which a trio of troupes battle for supremacy. *8pm. $10.* Then you've got a **Double Barrel** waiting for you, featuring two – count 'em: *two* – improv teams on creative fire. *10pm. $10.*

Saturday: Andy Crouch doesn't work for Avon, no, ah ha ha, but he's making up for it by presenting a riotous group of comedians in a show of **Improvised Shakespeare** – said to be one hell of a Bardic hoot night. *8pm. $10.* **Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by *you*, the audience. *Highly recommended. 10pm. $10.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. **www.thevelveetaroom.com**.

Open Mic Night, God Help Us All These are your would-be comedic neighbors, three minutes at a time: Love them, fear them. This week's host: **Chance Royce**. *Thursdays, 10pm*.

Doug Mellard was the 2006 Funniest Person in Austin, and he hasn't let himself get stale since then. No, he's been freshening Comedy Central and NBC's *Last Comic Standing* and so on, freshening and *honing*, see, so he's set to slay you (ever so lovingly) after **Dale Alexander** and **Chance Royce** open. *Fri.-Sat., Feb. 1-2, 9:30 & 11:30pm. $5.*

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

EGO'STRIP All hail the new improv venue in town, featuring a supergroup handpicked by the Frank Mills' own **Dave Buckman**. They'll amaze you with longform work, then lead the audience in improv games, right there in one of the city's favorite watering holes. Huzzah! *Wednesdays, 9-10:30pm. Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. $5.*

Dance

BIG RANGE AUSTIN DANCE FESTIVAL: CALL FOR ENTRIES A contemporary dance festival facilitated by Spank Dance is seeking choreographers to present new dance works at AustinVentures StudioTheater, Salvage Vanguard 2nd Stage, and the Off Center in June. Application and event details available online; applications also available at the venues. Deadline: *Feb. 15*. **www.spankdance.com**.

THE LONG CENTER DANCE AUDITIONS The Long Center for the Performing Arts seeks 16 dancers (eight males, eight females), for their upcoming inaugural gala, to perform the "Mambo" from *West Side Story*. Strong technical dancers of all ethnic and racial backgrounds are encouraged. Women, wear character heels; men, wear character shoes. Headshot and résumé required. Must be 18 or older. Call or e-mail for details. *Rollins Studio Theatre, 701 W. Riverside. 482-0800 x126.* **kjantsch@thelongcenter.org**.

DANCE CAROUSEL The balletic brain trust for this fifth annual show includes Nancy Bain, Ellen Bartel, Annie Hudson, Rhianon Renae Kjar, Myia Little, Laura Noose, Amanda Oakely, Caroline Sutton Clark, Leah Tubbs, and Randi Turkin. Warning: adult language. (Yes, yes, some dances are "talkies.") Call for reservations. *Sat., Feb. 2, 2:15pm. The Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 479-7529. $10.* **www.spankdance.com**.

MARDI GRAS BURLESQUE EXTRAVAGANZA French-, Cajun-, and New Orleans-influenced music and routines, a brass band, a Decatur St. Cabaret Duo, and more, as presented by the Lunatic Fringe Burlesque Company. Hot, we reckon, and spicy. *Sat., Feb. 2, 10pm. Emo's, 603 Red River, 477-3667. $15.* **www.myspace.com/lunaticfringeburlesque**.

PILOBOLUS Athletic, strong, humorous, and wildly imaginative, Pilobolus is an iconic company that has informed countless followers with its incredible choreography and technique. *Wed.-Thu., Feb. 6-7, 8pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. $30-66.* **www.pilobolus.com**.

TWO LEFT FEET

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE & CULTURAL CENTER: SPRING CLASSES PRFD offers classes in music and dance for all ages. Among the favorites: the "Brinca y Canta" class for preschoolers and their favorite adults (that's you!). Add to this the usual traditional dance and music classes, all steeped in the rich cultural heritage of Puerto Rico. See the company's website for details. *251-8122.* **www.prfdance.org**.

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Open to all, these ballroom and Latin sessions are a great way to practice or learn new steps. Each night features a variety of dances; each month sees the start of a new, progressive course. No partner necessary. *Sundays, 6-8pm. Dancers Workshop, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary. Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd. 32-DANCE. Fees vary.* **www.dancein.org**.

LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CLASSES FORMING Classes are forming now in belly dancing (all levels), flamenco, salsa/merengue, hip-hop, creative movement for ages 5-10, and tai chi. *Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar. 416-8800.* **www.luciladance.com**.

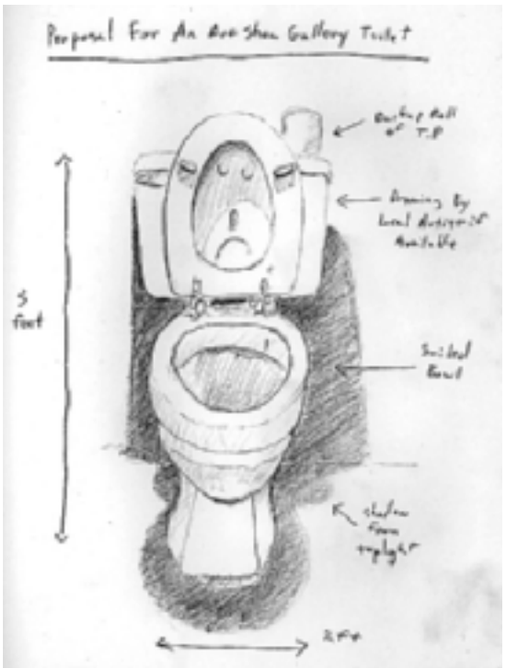
FIRST FRIDAY CONTRA DANCING Easy and fun, contra dancing'll put you in the swing of things. Live music by Andrea, Stew & Them Other Two; dances called by Keith Tuxhorn. *Fri., Feb. 1, 7:30pm (beginner's lessons); 8-11pm (main dance). Carpenter's Hall, 400 Josephine. 970-4919. $8 (discount for Austin Friends of Traditional Music members and first-timers).*





'The World Is Making Us Look Bad'

Big Medium Gallery, through Feb. 23



It seems like collectives and collaborations are the things to do right now. Strength in numbers and all that, right?

Entering the rechristened Big Medium Gallery is like walking into someone's bedroom or entertainment room. A desk with a troubled computer is followed by a dresser with random junk (and hidden art pieces), leading to a beanbag chair in front of an Atari console hooked up to a small TV. There is a lot happening in a very haphazard setup, and it is easy to miss the touches supplied by collaborating artists William Hundley, Paul Moncus, Stacey Farrar, and Peter VonDiest. In the restroom, it is easier to see what the artists are suggesting. The toilet "mural," the fake security camera (I assume it is fake), and the photographs are recognizable in the usually empty room.

The next gallery is all-out art with a sculptural installation, drawings, and sculptures. Half of the room is wallpapered with architectural renderings. Oil derricks drawn with charcoal and with black yarn coming out from different points link to a sewing machine seemingly creating a beastly throw rug. On the other side of the room sit three short sculptures inflating and deflating in such a way that the black fur rug is given a suspenseful tension in its stillness. Three drawings correspond with the sculptures and define the pasty latex as piles of lightbulbs, cassette tapes, and remote controls. The works in this room felt the most complete as art objects.

In the last two spaces, you can find a series of proposals for ready-made art, live examples of ready-made hybrids, and a participatory activity in the form of surveys and suggestions. The clipboards do not take up a lot of room, but the proposals cover the whole back wall, and the hybrids are scattered on the remaining wall and floor space. What does all of this junk mean? A malfunctioning computer overtaken by Internet pop-ups and hard-drive crashes, stacks of cheeseburgers, a map embellished with the Pacific Trash Vortex, piles of discarded electronics, and a wastebasket posing as a receptacle for your surveys all define a disinterest with what was once "need to have." Is this what it sounds like when consumers cry?

In these broken and forgotten states, items are brought together in the hopes of creating something new and improved. What comes out is something less innovative and more tragic in its absurdity.

It is difficult determining the mockery and the genuine frustration when some pieces in the show reach a more finished state than others. Writer/director Brad Bird cherishes the extraordinary in his Pixar/Disney favorites, *The Incredibles* and *Ratatouille*; individuals are exalted above mediocrity. But where does that leave the rest of us? Can two failed ideas ever amount to greatness without creating more junk? Probably not, but it is more fun to share the joystick with friends while playing *Pitfall!* on the Atari. – *Salvador Castillo*

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH TWYLA GRACE Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble/Review teaches ongoing classes in belly dance. Call or write her for more information. *Mon. & Wed., 8:30-9:30pm, 12687 Research Boulevard @ Oakknoll. 971-0188.* **www.twylabellydance.com**.

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Learn traditional and classical Egyptian techniques in this fun and fast-paced class. Contact Drakon for details. *512/750-7037. $13 per class; $66 for six classes.* **www.desertpassion.com**.

TAPESTRY DANCE COMPANY: WINTER, SPRING CLASSES Registration for Tapestry Dance Company's Winter and Spring Academy classes is ongoing. Classes for children ages 3 and older, teens, and adults of all ages and experience. *Tapestry Dance Company, 2302 Western Trails. 474-9864.* **www.tapestry.org**.

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ-ed music weekly, year-round. *Saturdays, 8-11pm; minilesson, 7:30pm. Austin Uptown Dance, 8868 Research. 989-3939.* **www.austinballroomdancers.org**.

SALSA SATURDAYS @ THE CEPEDA BRANCH Put down the books and kick up your heels with adult salsa classes for beginners. *Saturdays through the end of May, 2-4pm. Cepeda Branch Austin Public Library, 651 N. Pleasant Valley. 974-7372. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

CONTACT IMPROVISATION DANCE JAMS Participants move in and out of contact with one or more people through a common center of gravity. All are welcome. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm; Sundays, 4:30-6pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. $5.*

SCOTTISH BALLROOM DANCING Learn the ballroom dances of Scotland, lads and lassies: lively jigs and reels and elegant strathspeys; no partner needed, but couples are welcome. *Thursdays, 7-8:30pm. Quicksilver Dance Center, 8711 Burnet Rd. Ste. H-100. 327-2869. First class free.*

CHERYL CHADDICK CONTEMPORARY DANCE Dancers are invited to participate in these ongoing classes. *Sundays, 10:30am-noon. Cafe Dance, 3307-B Hancock. Tuesdays, 6:45-8:15pm. Ballet Austin, 501 W. Third. 476-9051 x126. $10.* **www.balletaustin.org**.

ESTUDIO FLAMENCO Flamenco dance classes for beginners and intermediates. Handy central location to boot. Call for times; private lessons available. *2801 W 45th. 382-1366. $10 per class.* **www.estudioflamenco.com**.

MODERN DANCE CLASSES Ellen Bartel of Spank Dance Company leads a series of classes in modern dance (all levels). *Times and prices vary, see the Tapestry website for details. Tapestry Dance Company studios, 2302 Western Trails.* **www.tapestry.org**.

SOLID CHROME DANCERS Dance in a real honky-tonk! Learn the Texas two-step and Western swing. Singles and couples welcome to these ongoing classes. *Thursdays, 8pm. Broken Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar, 417-7383. $8.* **www.myspace.com/solidchromedancers**.

SCANDINAVIAN DANCING Turning and improvised couple dancing for beginning to advanced dancers. No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. *Thursdays, 7:30-9:45pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598. $3.* **www.austinscandi.org**.

NIA CLASSES The Nia Technique is a high-powered energizing workout inspired by dance, martial arts, and healing arts. The first class is free. *Mon. & Fri., 9:30-10:30am; Mon. & Thu., 6-7pm; Sat., 10:30am. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 922-1581. $10 each class.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Start out a fun evening learning a variety of couples and line dances from around the world before giving it a whirl during the open dance session. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. No partner required. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); open dance 8:15-11pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. $5.* **www.aifd.cc**.

AUSTIN GAY/LESBIAN SALSA GROUP Welcome this free group that invites gays/lesbians who want to learn (or already know) how to salsa to gather and dance. *Wednesdays. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free.* **www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austingaysalsa**.

FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise in swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. *Tuesdays, 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance). Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary.* **www.fouronthefloor.com**.

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. A beginner's lesson starts the evening. *Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. $4 ($2, members).* **www.austinswingsyndicate.org**.

Classical Music

OPENING

CONSPIRARE: I DREAM A WORLD This beautiful concert program is Conspirare's effort for the Eighth World Symposium on Choral Music in Copenhagen in July, preceded by tour concerts in Stockholm, Oslo, and Bergen. Conspirare is the only American choir performing at the Copenhagen Symposium, and you can hear why in a concert showcasing American choral works that represent our country's cultural and musical diversity. *Thu., Jan. 31, 8pm. University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio St. Fri., Feb. 1, 8pm; Sun., Feb. 3, 2:30pm. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th. 476-5775. $30 ($15, students).* **www.conspirare.org**.

AUSTIN SINGERS: FOOD FOR THE SOUL The Singers present their annual benefit concert, featuring songs from a host of religious traditions, as well as choral works by the likes of Beethoven, Brahms, Copland, Berger, and more. This year's beneficiary is Micah 6, whose mission is to help the homeless and impoverished in the UT campus area. *Fri., Feb. 1, 8pm. University Baptist Church, 2130 Guadalupe. Sat., Feb. 2, 8pm. Hope Presbyterian Church, 11520 Olson. 314-5532. $15 ($12, seniors; $5, students; group rates available).* **www.austinsingers.org**.

THE OMNI SINGERS: AMERICAN SONGBOOK VOLUME 2 The Omni Singers Musical Theatre Ensemble performs popular songs from the 1940s-1970s under the direction of Michael McKelvey, including works by notable tunesmiths Sammy Cahn, Dorothy Fields, Alan and Marilyn Bergman, and Burt Bacharach. Dessert comes with, and a silent auction to benefit the St. Edward's New York Choral Tour Fund. *Fri.-Sat., Feb. 1-2, 7:30pm. Maloney Room, Main Building, St. Edward's University Campus. 428-1297. $10 ($6, seniors, students, St. Edward's faculty and staff).*

ROUND TOP: SYNERGY BRASS QUINTET The acclaimed group promises veritable fireworks with its outstanding musical ability and superb showmanship. *Sat., Feb. 2, 3pm, 4pm & 8pm. Festival Hill, 248 Jaster, Round Top. 979/249-3129. $10-20.* **www.festivalhill.org**.

TEXAS EARLY MUSIC PROJECT: MONTEVERDI: LETTERS AND LAMENTS Monteverdi at his most intimate, with exquisite laments, passionate letters set to music, and virtuosic madrigals of love and mythology for voices and instruments. *Sat., Feb. 2, 8pm. First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis, 371-0099. $18 ($13, seniors, students).* **www.early-music.org**.

AUSTIN CHILDREN'S CHOIR: THE PASSAGE OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD Exhibits throughout the museum integrate songs of hope with monologues, narration, storytelling, readings by authors, discussions, film screenings, a participatory drum circle, and more, to better illustrate the multiple facets of the Underground Railroad, and how music played a key role. *Sat., Feb. 2, 1-5pm. Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926. $5.* **www.austinchildrenschoir.com**.

AUSTIN SYMPHONY: AIR SUPPLY The pop music duo breezes into Austin on the winds of 20-plus years of making (musical) love. Maestro Peter Bay conducts. *Sat., Feb. 2, 8pm. Riverbend Centre, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 476-6064, 888/4-MAESTRO. $25, $40.* **www.austinsymphony.org**.

MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN: LENTEN CONCERTS AT NOON Take a lunchtime pause to meditate and reflect in this weekly concert series, followed by an optional lunch. Free parking in the church garage at 8th and Trinity. This week features **Austin Haller**, organist. *Thu., Feb. 7, noon. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196. Free ($7, lunch).* **www.stdave.org**.

AUSTIN CHAMBER MUSIC CENTER: BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONCERT Works by William Grant Still, Dorothy Rudd Moore, and selections from compositions by Adidam, SaulPaul, and Gnarls Barkley (!) make this eclectic evening a festive and memorable one. Hip-hop-influenced violinist John Littlejohn is joined by soprano Gloria Quinlan and pianist Stephen Burnaman for a classical-crossover event. *Thu., Feb. 7, 7:30pm. King-Seabrook Chapel at Huston-Tillotson College, 900 Chicon, 454-0026. Free.* **www.austinchambermusic.org**.

Visual Arts

EVENTS

WEST END GALLERY NIGHT: FIRST THURSDAY Enjoy nine galleries within walking distance with ample parking. Venues include Art on 5th, Artworks, Austin Galleries, F8 Gallery, Haven Gallery, Lotus Gallery, Russell Collection, Stephen L. Clark Gallery, Wally Workman Gallery. *Thu., Feb. 7, 6-8pm. 478-4440.* **www.artaustin.org/westend.htm**.

AFG: NATALYA KOCHAK Loose approximations of people's personalities done in watercolors and monoprints. *Sat., Feb. 1, 7pm-12mid. 301 Chicon Unit F, 296-6624.* **www.austinfigurativegallery.com**.

OPENING

DESIGN CENTER GALLERY New works by oil painter Roberto Ugalde and pastel artist John Bittick. *3601 S. Congress Bldg. C, 288-0574. Free.* **www.designcenterofaustin.com**.

ST. EDWARD'S PHOTOCOMMUNICATION FACULTY Traey Amescua, Chase Browder, Melissa Ciano, Bill Kennedy, Sybil Miller, Eduardo Muñoz Ordoqui, Mike Osborne, Adam Schreiber, Peter Tucker, and Joseph Vitone present photography and video installation. *Through Feb. 16. Fine Arts Gallery, 3001 S. Congress, 448-8400.* **www.stedwards.edu**.

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: JILL CARVER Texas has raised new challenges for this English painter. The landscape and the light were in direct contrast to what she was used to in England, but she acknowledges that the move jarred her senses and made her a stronger artist. Reception: *Sat., Feb. 2, 6-8pm*. Exhibtion: *Through Feb. 29. 1202-B W. Sixth, 472-7428.*

HARRY RANSOM CENTER: ON THE ROAD WITH THE BEATS This exhibition traces the travels of Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, William S. Burroughs, and their friends across America and the globe. Manuscripts, books, photographs, and visual arts from the Ransom Center's collections tell the story of the beat generation and the literary and social trends they inspired. (The scroll manuscript of Kerouac's *On the Road* will be on display March 7-June 1.) Exhibition: *Feb. 5-Aug. 3. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944.* **www.hrc.utexas.edu**.

SVT GALLERY: 01.08 In the context of narrative and expressive works, Benné Rockett and Suzanne Dulany talk to us with their art in this installation-based show. Reception: *Thu., Feb. 7, 6-8pm*. Exhibition: *Through March 23. 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886.* **www.salvagevanguard.org**.

CLOSING

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART Workspace: Paul Ramirez Jonas *Through Feb. 3. MLK & Congress, 471-7324.* **www.blantonmuseum.org**.

AMOA: ROY LICHTENSTEIN PRINTS Why, it's as if one has died and gone to Ben-Day-dot heaven, as the Austin Museum of Art presents this retrospective of work by the master of comic-book appropriation. Whither now, O Fin Fang Foom? *Through Feb. 3. 823 Congress, 495-9224.* **www.amoa.org**.

ONGOING

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. *1219 W. Sixth*.

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a non-profit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. *6601 Felix, 385-3591.* **www.serieproject.org**.

YOUNG LATINO ARTISTS: EMBRACING CHAOS *Through Feb. 23. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River, 478-6222.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

GALLERY POLLOCK: BILL D. FRANCIS The UT professor emeritus presents his finest Prismacolor works. *2620-C S. Lamar, 804-2667.* **www.gallerypollock.com**.

4 WALLS FINE ART: JESSE BURKE AND GEORGE SCHROEDER Burke, an instructor at the Rhode Island School of Design, brings his photography and installations to this smart gallery, while San Antonion Schroeder presents a series of abstract sculptures based on jarring sound. *Through March 15. 115 E. Fifth #1, 560-8847.* **www.4wallsfineart.com**.

ART ALLIANCE AUSTIN + PUMP PROJECT In its second show, Art Alliance Austin has teamed up with Pump Project Art Complex to display the works of local artists at this new location. *315 Congress #100, 610-4211.* **www.artallianceaustin.org**.

ART PALACE: OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS Brad Tucker's solo exhibition incorporates an installation of sculpture, painting, video, and lino-prints to provide a framework for two text-based works. *Through Feb. 16. 2109 Cesar Chavez, 496-0687.* **www.artpalacegallery.com**.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. *78 San Marcos, 457-0171.* **www.pablotaboadastudio.com**.

ARTHOUSE: SUNDOWN SCHOOLHOUSE FOR INNER AUSTIN AGRICULTURE Arthouse turns itself into a community resource center, schoolhouse, working greenhouse, and eco-progressive laboratory for artistic experimentation and features Fritz Haeg's "Attack on the Front Lawn." *Through March 16. 700 Congress, 453-5312.* **www.arthousetexas.org**.

BIG MEDIUM: THE WORLD IS MAKING US LOOK BAD is a collaborative project by William Hundley, Paul Moncus, Stacey Farrar, and Peter VonDiest, based on "the concept that we human beings are completely blameless for the situations we find ourselves and our world in." Intrigued? Big Medium used to be called Bolm Studios; that may intrigue you further. *Through Feb. 23. 5305 Bolm.* **www.bolmstudios.com**.

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a, we guess you might say, average South Austin home. Hours: *Sundays, 11am-2pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413.* **www.keepaustinweird.com**.

GALLERY @ CONCORDIA: DAVID KROFT The Concordia University art professor will showcase work spanning more than 30 years of his career, comprising sculpture, paintings, drawings, and a large installation. *Through March 26. 3400 N. I-35, 486-2001.*

CRL: IT'S GONNA BE EVERYTHING The nine artists and founders of Okay Mountain tell all in this group collaborative show originating from games, challenges, or rules imposed on and by the group. *Through Feb. 9. 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099.*

D BERMAN GALLERY: EXCHANGE This exhibition features longtime friends Catherine Lee and Bodo Korsig showing work together for the first time. *Through Feb. 23. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877.* **www.dbermangallery.com**.

DAVIS GALLERY: SANDRA LANGSTON Half a lifetime in Texas and half in southern Italy make for some intriguing contrasts. Works are in oil, pastel, and mixed-media. *Through Feb. 16. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.*

RARE EARTH: A CERAMIC PERSPECTIVE features new works by Ben Appl, Eric Satrum, Christa Mares, Don Madden, Ceci Israel-Bradford, Marianne McGrath, Shawn Roberts, Peat Ruck, and Moses Tsai. *Through Feb. 14. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

ELSE MADSEN GALLERY: MAXIMALIST A multimedia show of drawings, paintings, and collage, featuring work by Meg Stone, Michael Abelman, and Shawna Mouser. *Through Feb. 16. 411 Brazos #99.* **www.elsemadsen.com**.

GALLERY LOMBARDI: IT'S A BEAUTIFUL WORLD This Scion-sponsored show features art by Andrew Pommier, Andy Mueller, Angela Boatwright, Blaine Fontana, Blek le Rat, and more. *Through Feb. 23. 602 W. Seventh Ste. A, 481-1088.* **www.gallerylombardi.com**.

BROCCA GALLERY New works by sculptor and painter Augusto Brocca. *1103 E. Sixth.* **www.broccagallery.com**.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: MADS LYNNERUP "If You See Anything Interesting Please Let Someone Know Immediately" is the first solo exhibition of this New York-based artist. *Through March 1. 300 West #1318, 215-4965.* **www.lorareynolds.com**.

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART presents an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork. *6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901.* **www.mitchie.com**.

NEW EAST GALLERY: CHICANO CLASSIC Caroline Martines' bold and striking color combinations characterize her impassioned depictions of barrio characters with Latin American religious iconography. *Through Feb. 14. 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438.* **www.diversearts.org**.

OKAY MOUNTAIN: GOLD RUSH This fresh-as-baby-flesh show is curated by John Trippe of FecalFace.com, the popular visual-arts website, and features work by Michelle Blade, Kelsey Brooks, Alika Cooper, Jeremy Fish, Tara Foley, Matt Furie, Jay Howell, Josh Keyes, Anthony Lister, and more. *Through Feb. 9. 1312 E. Cesar Chavez Ste. B.* **www.okaymountain.com**.

CARNAVAL BRASILEIRO POSTER RETROSPECTIVE Celebrating 29 years of Carnaval Brasileiro in Austin: A stunning array of colorful posters, costumes, and drums. *Through Feb. 16. 1516-B S. Lamar, 440-8318. $5.* **www.sambaparty.com**.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: SECRET MUSEUM OF MANKIND Houston artist Donna Huanca excavates layers of memory to create an installation containing life-sized dioramas, sound tunnels, and primitive shelters to render a narrative from past to future. *Through Feb. 16. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064.* **www.womenandtheirwork.org**.

SPACES

ARTHUR SIMONE AT CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Hunting Art Prize finalist Simone showcases his large and colorful abstract-expressionist canvases. *Through February. 606 E. Seventh, 480-5988.* **www.arthursimone.com**.

✪ **LOVEJOYS: BART FARAR** Highly recommended. *604 Neches, 477-1268.*

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

AVAA AND MULTICULTURAL ARTISTS PARTNERSHIP seek artists vendors for the Chinese Lunar New Year Holiday Bazaar. All proceeds go directly to the artists, but participants are asked to donate one item to the silent auction fundraiser. See their website for details. Deadline: *Feb. 6*.
www.multiculturalartfestivals.org/CallArtists-FCCBazaar.html.

WOMEN IN THE STUDIOS @ IDEA: JURIED CALL "**April Fools**" is open to all works of two-dimensional media. Digital images must be no larger than 72 dpi, no more than 600 pixels high and 800 pixels wide. Please name your digital image file to correspond to your entry title. Cash award for best of show. Exhibition scheduled for *March 15-April 5*. Deadline for entry: *postmarked Feb. 27*. Fee: *one-three entries, $25; each additional entry, $5. 701 Tillery, Ste. A-2B, 386-9233.*
www.womeninthestudios.com.

Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

FRED WEBSTER offers another edge-of-your-seat mystery, *Armand's Folly*. *Sun., Feb. 3, 4pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

POETRY IN THE ARTS features guest poet Larry D. Thomas, poet laureate of Texas 2008, author of *Stark Beauty*, *Where Skulls Speak Wind*, and other gorgeously crafted books of poetry. Highly recommended. *Sat., Feb. 2, 2pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 974-7480.*

NAOMI WOLF compares post-9/11 America to the fascism and totalitarianism of Nazi Germany and Pinochet's Chile in her *The End of America*. If only it were hyperbole. *Sat., Feb. 2, 4pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

JOHN GRAY is back from metaphorical space with his latest, *Why Mars and Venus Collide: Improving Relationships by Understanding How Men and Women Cope Differently with Stress*. Zo, tell me about your musser. *Fri., Feb. 1, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

SOUL LOUNGE features live poetry readings and music from Kemistry every week. *Through Feb. 13. Light Bar, 408 Congress, 552-6633. Free.* **www.lightbaraustin.com**.

WORD/JAZZ The word/jazz performance series presents collaborative spoken word and improvised music, featuring an ever-evolving all-star cast of Austin's best performance poets, musicians, and writers who create live, spontaneous compositions. Harold McMillan's word/jazz low stars include spoken-word standouts Ivanho, Thom the World Poet, Ricardo Acevedo, and others. *Tuesdays, 6-8pm. Cafe Mundi, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

SHAKES ALOUD! is a fun exploration of the Bard. People of all ages are welcome to this ongoing weekly reading group offered by Austin Shakespeare and moderated by Melinda Hall. *Sundays, 5-7pm. ACoT Headquarters, 701 Tillery. $5 each night.* **www.austinshakespeare.org**.

AUSTIN WRITERS WORKSHOP FOR SCREENWRITERS This group is open to new members to come read, discuss, and critique one another's work – every other Monday. *Mon., Feb. 4, 6:30pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

7% SOLUTION CLUB prepares for the mystery *Storm Front* by Jim Butcher. *Mon., Feb. 4, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

THE UTTER READING SERIES is back with new poetry and prose from the hot minds of Central Texas writers. Always recommended. *Tue., Feb. 5, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

REWRITTEN HISTORY CLUB shakes the *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett. *Wed., Feb. 6, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

AUSTIN WRITER'S BLOCK is a mutually supportive writing group. Also: writing exercises. *Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30pm. La Madeleine, 3418 N. Lamar, 653-7872.* **www.austinwritersblock.com**.

MILWOOD BRANCH CLUB cribs *Special Topics in Calamity Physics* by Marisha Pessl. *Tue., Feb. 5, 7:30-8:30pm. Milwood Branch Library, 12500 Amherst.*

OPEN MICS

CITY WIDE REAGAN BLACK HISTORY SLAM No. 4 The Texas Youth Word Collective, in conjunction with the Reagan High School Social Studies Department's monthlong African American Extravaganza, honors the long African tradition of oratory and storytelling through poetry slam. Help support the Austin Under 21 Poetry Slam Team. Reagan does! *Fri., Feb. 1, 6-9pm. Reagan High School Cafeteria, 7104 Berkman. 632-5033 or 422-6653. Free.* **www.txywc.org**.

LOVE POEMS ONLY AT EXPRESSIONS Wordjazz plus Kathleen Romana with Dillon McKinsey and Phillip Abbott. Intro music by Chris Van Loan and Chip Ross. Bring a plate for the potluck and cans for the Poets Pantry. Round-robin open mic follows potluck after featured performers. All ages reading. *Sat., Feb. 2, 7pm. Austin Bahai Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin, 926-8880.* **www.austinbahai.org**.

WEIRD WORD is a round robin for poets and musicians. No sign-up sheet, no censors, no features. All poetry styles welcome. Currently BYOB for those so inclined. Hosted by the WarriorPoet. Note new day. *Mondays, 7-10pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473.* **www.southaustinstudios.com**.

GENUINE JOE All acts welcome but no cover songs. *Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576.* **www.genuinejoe.com**.

HIDEOUT IN WINTER with your host, Thom the World Poet, and special guests. *Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. $2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry).*

THE POETRY KARAOKE ORCHESTRA backs your poetry on the porch, with hosts Ivanho and Chris the Future. Bring canned foods for the Poets Pantry. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.* **www.rutamaya.net**.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running open mics in Austin. Hosted by David Bates and Mark Maslow. Donations accepted for Poets Pantry. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.* **www.freespeechart.com**.

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating crew of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, pomo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast of an evening. Open sign-up, 12 poets per week. $100 cash prizes. Featured poets kick it on, and then the tangles get electric. Note new venue! *Wednesdays, 8pm. Scoot Inn and Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200.* **www.nps2007.com**.

UNCENSORED OPEN MIC is hosted by Ed of Poetry Karaoke. All ages welcomed. Musicians, artists, dancers, all open living and free! *Wednesdays, 8pm. Sticky Fingers Boutique, 2201 S. First, 693-9570.* **www.myspace.com/stickyfingersboutique**.

VENTANA DEL SOL with Element 615. Reincarnate a word. *Sundays, 7-9pm. Ventana del Soul, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447.* **www.ventanadelsoul.org**.

SOUL SURVIVORS *Thu., Jan. 31, 7pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 626-7190. $3.*
www.myspace.com/anotheroptionproductions.

FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ VINNY'S Hosted by Kathleen Romana or a rotating cast of local stalwarts. *Vinny's Italian Cafe, 1003 Barton Springs Rd., 482-8484. Free.*

CALL FOR ENTRIES

AIPF DI-VERSE-CITY Austin International Poetry Festival is accepting poetry submissions for its 2008 anthology. Adults only, please. Deadline: *Fri., Feb. 1.* **www.aipf.org**.

LATINITAS MAGAZINE: NATIONAL WRITING CONTEST FOR GIRLS What is it like to be a Latina in your hometown? What does it mean to be a Latina to you? As a Latina, are you doing something in your community to make a difference, if so, what? Describe the biggest challenge facing the young Latinas today. Write in first person or Associated Press style. Word count: *800-1,000*. Ages: *14-21*. Deadline: *Feb. 10*. E-mail or send to: *Latinitas, P.O. Box 4284, Austin, TX 78765*.
latinitasawards@yahoo.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *clear blue sky – cold: say one degree or two Celsius – the dresses the hats a dead cat – Schrödinger's – how fast does her mind decay or rise – a shot back fire cut – palimpsest – another her waves at him in slow motion – never the same street or window or dress hat or blue – the cat does not wait*. Namaste. Vaya con dios.

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES to the family of Glynda Cox, co-owner of the fabled poetry mecca, Chicago House. She passed into remembered light on Jan. 20. So many great Austin poets and lovers of language owe so much to Glynda and the great venue she helped create. Thank you, Glynda, for your wondrous life.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

red doesn't enter the dark
like white or gold
red slips along and rivers over time
traveling by
quiet
next to the day

– Denise Szymczak,
"Hildegarde and the Spin of Sound"

Persepolis

D: Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Paronnaud; with the voices of Chiara Mastroianni, Catherine Deneuve, Simon Abkarian, Danielle Darrieux, Iggy Pop. (PG-13, 95 min., subtitled)



AC pick

Persepolis is at once a confessional autobiography, historical re-enactment, graphic art object, and deeply involving contemporary story about a girl's coming of age while circumventing not only the usual pitfalls of adolescence but also the enforced repression brought on by Iran's Islamic revolution of the Eighties. Satrapi's story, which she and Paronnaud adapted into an animated film from her graphic novels, is both specific and universal, and there enlies a large measure of its appeal. Marjane (voiced by Mastroianni) is a young Iranian grade-schooler when first we meet her in 1978. A daughter of the middle-class intelligentsia, Marji, as she is called, is a feisty young thing who resembles children the world over in her love for Bruce Lee, Nikes, and rock & roll. Then, in short measure, she witnesses the fall of the Shah's ironclad regime and its replacement by Islamic state rule. Suddenly, the adolescent's awkwardly changing body is forced under a veil, the official history in her textbooks is rewritten, and an independent-minded uncle who had been merely jailed and tortured by the Shah's secret police was now executed by the new religious dictatorship. The film's first half-hour provides a rich framework for understanding the history of Iran in the 20th century, albeit from the perspective of a little girl who is our surrogate vessel for absorbing the era's information, propaganda, and mixed signals. Eventually, Marji's parents send her to Vienna to continue her schooling and escape the repression in Tehran. There begins a rather picaresque tale of further maturation; in Vienna she becomes a different kind of cultural outsider yet still victim to the slings and arrows of pained adolescence. "I had survived a war, but a banal love story nearly killed me," she comments sardonically after she suffers the tragedy of a doomed love affair. Ultimately, she returns to Tehran, where she continues her anguished journey toward adulthood before finding her authorial voice. In ways, Marji reminds me of *Ghost World*'s Enid, another self-directed cartoon gal who made the transition from page to screen with all her transgressive spirit intact. The film's flat, mostly black-and-white animation helps convey some of the sense of a graphic novel, but moreover, the visual look complements the story's moral sphere, a realm governed by absolute rights and wrongs and lots of gray in-between areas. Black blobs can morph into morality militias, or they can depict the furtive pallor of the black-market street vendors whom one turns to for their Iron Maiden albums or the deep, black hole of depression one sinks into when you literally can't hold hands or let your hair down in public. As befits a coming-of-age story, there are a couple of indulgent passages, but they hardly get in the way of the overall flow. Though you might have a hard time discussing some of the film's verbal descriptions of torture with young ones, *Persepolis* will prove a worthwhile movie for thoughtful teens. They are likely to discover that their plight may be universal, but their circumstances are always unique. And, oh yeah, the personal is always political. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★★ Arbor, Dobie

New Reviews

THE EYE

D: David Moreau, Xavier Palud; with Jessica Alba, Alessandro Nivola, Parker Posey, Rade Serbedzija. (PG-13, 97 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. No advance screenings were held for this American remake of the successful Hong Kong horror film of 2002. The plot revisits the common storyline about transplanted body parts causing the recipient to suffer the traumas of the donor. Thus, all chances for originality lie in the telling, which just might be possible since the writing and directing team behind this are the same ones who made last year's critically well-received *Them*. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

HANNAH MONTANA AND MILEY CYRUS: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS CONCERT TOUR

D: Bruce Hendricks. (G, 74 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Mo' bigger, mo' betta. It's a chance to see the triple threat singer/songwriter/actress and pop sensation Miley Cyrus, filmed in 3-D while on her 54-city sold-out concert tour. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North

HONEYDRIPPER

D: John Sayles; with Danny Glover, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Yaya DaCosta, Charles S. Dutton, Vondie Curtis-Hall, Gary Clark Jr., Mable John, Stacy Keach. (PG-13, 123 min.)

I think it's time for me to come clean and admit that I've never really liked the blues. I realize that's probably heresy in Austin – the bluesiest of all predominately white, upwardly mobile college towns – but there you have it. Maybe it's something about the structure of the music that bothers me: those same 12 bars playing over and over – one, four, five, one, four, five. Or maybe it's because I don't understand why blues singers are always repeating the first line of every verse and passing it off as line two. (If your woman leaves you all alone in the first line of a song, shouldn't she do something different in the second? Call on the phone or pick up a stone or play the trombone?) Whatever the reason, the blues and I never clicked. Until I saw *Honeydripper*, Sayles' new drama about life in a destitute African-American cotton-farming town in Jim Crow-era Alabama and the music that gave it its mythology. Glover plays Tyrone "Pinetop" Purvis, an aging piano player with a past whose backwoods roadhouse, the Honeydripper, is on the verge of financial collapse. While the Honeydripper is home away from home to a small tribe of middle-aged drunks seeking consolation in old dirges, down the road, at Toussaint's, young folks dance and drink and spend money to the energizing new sounds of rock & roll. The future is electrified, but poor Purvis can barely even keep the lights on, much less fuel an amplifier. Like his club and the world it symbolizes, he is on the verge of extinction and, worse, irrelevance. *Honeydripper*'s story isn't anything you haven't seen a dozen times before, but where Sayles succeeds (where Sayles always succeeds) is in his ability to dramatize the psychological and linguistic details that give identity to a subculture struggling for survival. His film feels like life, a life that is both consumed by age-old injustices and bursting with hope in the restorative power of imagination and art. Like any true bluesman, Purvis has been knocked down by his burdens but not out, and watching him reach deep into himself to find absolution in the face of paralyzing historical circumstance made me realize finally what all that damned musical repetition is for: In a world where the prejudices and disappointments of the past keep coming back to haunt the living, the best way to exorcize a demon is to call him out by name, over and over again, until the words lose their meaning. If that doesn't work, though, you can always just turn up the guitar and drown the son of a bitch out. – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★★★ Arbor

MEET THE SPARTANS

D: Jason Friedberg, Aaron Seltzer; with Sean Maguire, Carmen Electra, Ken Davitian, Kevin Sorbo, Method Man, Diedrich Bader, Jareb Dauplaise, Travis Van Winkle. (PG-13, 84 min.)

The makers of *Meet the Spartans* – also responsible for *Scary Movie*, *Epic Movie*, *Date Movie*, et al. – mean to parody last year's hugely successful swords-and-sandals actioner *300*; what they really do is compress that film's plot to *300 for Dummies*, insert *Deal or No Deal* references to guarantee a shelf life of, say, last week, and hit the same tired gay jokes ad nauseam. I'll cop to maybe three cracked smiles in this interminable retread of King Leonidas (Maguire) and his small army of fat boys and no-gooders versus Xerxes (*Borat*'s Davitian) and his bloodthirsty Persians, but it definitely didn't occur when a penguin shat in Leonidas' open mouth. Here's the thing: When *300* came out, everybody had a good laugh about the film's many glistening and taut male bodies, its spirit of fraternal fellowship that was just a cocked eyebrow away from a come-on. Had a good laugh, even enjoyed a couple viral videos, like the one that spliced those glistening bods together to the tune of "It's Raining Men." And then we moved on. Apparently co-writer/directors Friedberg and Seltzer did not. It's unclear if they didn't get the joke the first time around, or just didn't care, but to devote an entire feature film to making fun of another film's universally acknowledged gay subtext seems to me good cause for said filmmakers to have a sit-down with their muse, because somebody's been sleeping on the job. Not to mention sticky-fingering: Hey, guys, when *you* repurpose a disco hit to poke fun at gay men, not only do you look like assholes, you look like assholes who rip their jokes off of YouTube. – *Kimberley Jones*

Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

OVER HER DEAD BODY

D: Jeff Lowell; with Eva Longoria Parker, Paul Rudd, Lake Bell, Jason Biggs, Lindsay Sloane, Stephen Root, William Morgan Sheppard, Wendi McLendon-Covey. (PG-13, 95 min.)

There's just no end to America's love affair with blandness, is there? Every time some new middle-of-the-road romantic comedy arrives onscreen to dredge the bottom of the cinematic barrel, I hope and pray that audiences will rise up, throw away their $8 buckets of popcorn, and stomp out of theatres in a huff (or a minute and a huff, as Groucho Marx would say) to demand something new and fresh. But it never seems to happen. Somehow Kate Hudson and Matthew McConaughey and Jennifer Aniston still have careers, and somehow our expectations of the genre just keep dropping and dropping, from the heights of George Cukor and Woody Allen down to Nora Ephron and Rob Reiner, and then down further to the perfect mediocrity of Lowell and Parker, the brains and the beauty behind *Over Her Dead Body*. San Antonio Spurs superfan Parker plays Kate, a bitchy monster of a

Openings

The Eye (PG-13)

Hannah Montana and Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour (G)

Honeydripper (PG-13)

Over Her Dead Body (PG-13)

Persepolis (PG-13)

Sharkwater (PG)

Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation 2008 (NR)

Strange Wilderness (R)

Ratings

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

La bomba

bride-to-be who gets her comeuppance when an ice sculpture falls on her head on her wedding day. But not even death can stop a force as vindictive as Kate. Instead, she returns to Earth in spirit form to keep an eye on her fiancé-in-mourning, Henry (Rudd, cashing in), and wreak supernatural havoc on an attractive psychic (Bell) who's using her gifts to wrangle Henry into bed. It's not a bad premise for a movie – rich with the delicious possibilities of trans-mortal combat between an embittered, but deceased, woman and her usurping rival, who has the distinct advantage of being alive – and in the right hands it could have been something. Imagine what Rosalind Russell and Norma Shearer could have done with such roles, or Katharine Hepburn and Lauren Bacall, or even Salma Hayek and Regina King. Just think of the dialogue Billy Wilder or the Coen brothers could have written. Instead we get Parker and Bell, who approach their performances with all the comic agility and screen presence of supermodels on their first acting gig, and Lowell, who cut his teeth writing for god-awful sitcoms like *The Drew Carey Show* and *Just Shoot Me* and who apparently never met a daytime-TV-talk-show verbal slap-down he didn't find hilarious. Where *Over Her Dead Body* should soar with blistering verbal gymnastics, it limps with empty sass about weight gain and skin blemishes; where it should race with inventive comic set-pieces, it slogs with extended flatulence sequences and gags about lifting overweight dogs. Where it should stop, it begins; where it should vanish, it will just keep on appearing, in theatres, on entertainment-news shows, in video stores, on and on, world without end. – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

RAMBO

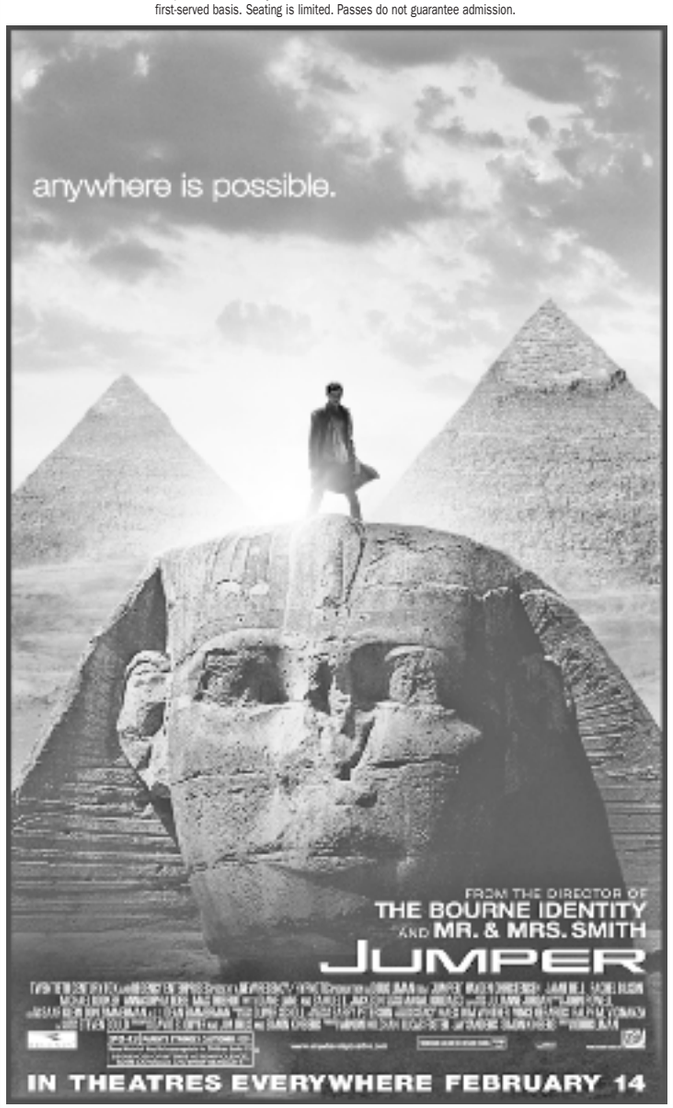
D: Sylvester Stallone; with Stallone, Julie Benz, Matthew Marsden, Graham McTavish, Reynaldo Gallegos, Jake La Botz, Tim Kang, Ken Howard. (R, 99 min.)

There will be blood in the ultraviolent *Rambo*, a movie that depicts both heinous acts and righteous reckoning with equal degrees of flying body parts and arterial sprays. In this wholly unnecessary fourth installment of the franchise, Stallone's one-man weapon of mass destruction takes on the villainous Burmese army in a mission to rescue a group of kidnapped Christian missionaries deep in the Myanmar jungles. Gone, however, is the manufactured macho image of an oil-slicked physique ready for action that's forever burned into our iconic memory of the Eighties. In the 20 years since we last saw him fighting alongside Afghan rebels against the Soviets, John Rambo (Stallone) now looks a real human being, albeit one still given to tough-guy utterances accompanied by a don't-fuck-with-me glare. The script attempts to suggest that our taciturn hero has softened in his old age, given his empathetic response to the female missionary who challenges him to find his humanity again. Of course, the development of human relationships is not what the *Rambo* sequels are all about – the emphasis is, of course, on getting even with a maximum of bloodletting. The bad guys in this film's black-and-white world are beyond redemption and, therefore, deserve to die. Be forewarned: Watching the graphic massacres of helpless civilians by these men requires a strong stomach, particularly when you know that such senseless brutality is not far removed from reality in that troubled country. (The fact, however, that the cryptic leader of these sadists is depicted as all the more evil because he likes the company of adolescent boys is stupidly regressive. Shame on you, Sylvester.) No question, there is a perverse satisfaction in watching Stallone the actor shoot, stab, and strangle his way to victory (granted, he has help from some fellow mercenaries), and Stallone the director handles those scenes well. But even as the body count rises, you're left to wonder whether there can ever be anything more. The initial Rambo film, *First Blood*, was an above-average action film with a real human element to it, but its follow-ups are this side of parody. Having artistically exhausted this franchise long ago and ended another one with the 2006 release of *Rocky Balboa*, Stallone is in desperate need of reinvention, but he seems myopically focused on rehashing the past rather than exploring the future. One shudders to think what he might revive next by way of his film oeuvre. *Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot ... Again*? *More Tango & Cash*? It boggles the mind. – *Steve Davis*

★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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★ JUNO
Fri: (4:20) 7:10, 9:40; Sat/Sun: (1:20, 4:20) 7:10, 9:40; Mon–Thur: 7:10, 9:40
★ NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
Fri: (4:00) 7:00, 9:30; Sat/Sun: (1:10, 4:00) 7:00, 9:30; Mon–Thur: 7:00, 9:30
THE ORPHANAGE
Fri–Sun: (4:10) 9:50; Mon–Thur: 9:50
★ INTO THE WILD
Fri, Mon, Tues, Thur: 6:50; Sat/Sun: (1:00) 6:50
★ = Academy Award® Nominee
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Showtimes

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1 – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ *320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.*

AFS: ***El Bruto:*** Tue, 7:00pm
Music Monday: ***Dirt Road to Psychedelia:*** Mon, 10:00pm
Fat Tuesday Sing-Along: Tue, 9:30pm
Weird Wednesday: ***The Human Tornado:*** Wed, 12mid
Love Bites: The Power Ballad Sing-Along: Thu (2/7), 9:30pm
Sharkwater: Fri, 4:45pm; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45; Mon-Thu (2/7), 4:45pm
Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation 2008: Fri-Sat, 7:15, 9:45, 11:55; Sun, 7:15, 9:45; Mon, 7:00pm; Wed, 9:30, 11:55; Thu (2/7), 7:00, 11:55
There Will Be Blood: Fri, 3:30, 7:00, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:20; Mon, 5:00pm; Tue, 5:00, 8:30; Wed, 5:00pm; Thu (2/7), 5:00, 8:30
***There Will Be Blood* With Co-Star Russell Harvard:** Mon, 8:30pm; Wed, 8:30pm
Terror Thursday: ***Welcome to Arrow Beach:*** Thu (2/7), 12mid

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK *13729 Research, 219-8135.*

The Bucket List: Fri, 12:00, 3:15, 10:05; Sat, 12:00, 3:15, 7:30, 10:05; Sun, 12:00, 10:05; Mon-Wed, 12:00, 3:15, 7:30, 10:05; Thu (2/7), 12:00, 3:15, 7:30
Tromatic Thursday: ***Bugged:*** Thu (2/7), 10:00pm
Cloverfield: 12:30, 3:35, 7:35, 10:25
TV Party: ***Lost:*** Thu (2/7), 9:00pm
No Country for Old Men: 12:10, 3:45, 7:10, 10:20
****Rambo:*** Fri-Tue, 12:25, 3:30, 7:40, 10:15; Wed-Thu (2/7), 12:25, 3:30, 7:40, 10:40
****Strange Wilderness:*** Fri-Tue, 12:15, 3:05, 7:05, 9:55; Wed-Thu (2/7), 12:15, 3:05, 7:05, 10:15
There Will Be Blood: 11:30am, 3:00, 7:00, 10:30pm
****27 Dresses:*** 12:05, 3:25, 7:15, 10:00

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH *1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.*

Charlie Wilson's War: Fri, 11:05am, 7:05, 9:45pm; Sat, 11:05am, 1:35, 4:10, 7:05, 9:45pm; Sun, 11:05am, 1:35, 9:45pm; Mon, 4:10, 7:05, 9:45; Tue, 11:05am, 1:35, 4:10, 7:05, 9:45pm; Wed-Thu (2/7), 4:10, 7:05, 9:45
Juno: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:40, 7:35, 10:10pm; Mon, 4:40, 7:35, 10:10; Tue, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:40, 7:35, 10:10pm; Wed-Thu (2/7), 4:40, 7:35, 10:10
No Country for Old Men: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:45, 10:35pm; Mon, 4:50, 7:45, 10:35; Tue, 11:15am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:45, 10:35pm; Wed-Thu (2/7), 4:50, 7:45, 10:35
The Orphanage: Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50pm; Mon, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50; Tue, 11:10am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50pm; Wed, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50; Thu (2/7), 7:10, 9:50
****Spiral:*** Thu (2/7), 12mid
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:40, 10:25pm; Mon, 4:45, 7:40, 10:25; Tue, 11:25am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:40, 10:25pm; Wed-Thu (2/7), 4:45, 7:40, 10:25
Teeth: Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:15, 11:35pm; Mon, 4:00, 7:00, 9:15, 11:35; Tue, 11:20am, 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:15, 11:35pm; Wed-Thu (2/7), 4:00, 7:00, 9:15, 11:35

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE *2700 W. Anderson, 476-1320.* Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.

Master Pancake: ***The Breakfast Club:*** Fri, 10:00, 12mid; Sat, 10:00pm
The Bucket List: Fri-Sat, 1:20, 3:55, 7:05; Sun, 1:20, 9:55; Mon, 3:55, 7:05; Tue, 1:20, 3:55, 7:05, 9:55; Wed, 3:55, 7:05, 9:55; Thu (2/7), 3:55, 9:55
Cloverfield: Fri-Sun, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:30, 9:45; Mon, 4:45, 7:30, 9:45; Tue, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:30, 9:45; Wed, 4:45, 7:30, 9:45; Thu (2/7), 4:45, 9:45
TV Party: ***Lost:*** Thu (2/7), 8:00pm
****Rambo:*** Fri-Sun, 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 10:10; Mon, 4:55, 7:20, 10:10; Tue, 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 10:10; Wed-Thu (2/7), 4:55, 7:20, 10:10
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
TV at the Alamo: ***Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles:*** Mon, 9:45pm
There Will Be Blood: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30pm; Mon, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30; Tue, 11:45am, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30pm; Wed-Thu (2/7), 3:15, 7:00, 10:30

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS *9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742.* Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesdays.

Atonement: 12:30, 3:15, 7:00, 9:45
Austin Jewish Film Festival: Ends Friday
The Diving Bell and the Butterfly: Fri, 7:30pm; Sat-Thu (2/7), 12:40, 7:30
Honeydripper: 12:00, 2:40, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10
Juno: 12:10, 2:50, 5:00, 7:20, 9:55
No Country for Old Men: 12:50, 3:45, 6:45, 9:30
Persepolis: 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40
The Savages: Fri, 10:05pm; Sat-Thu (2/7), 3:30, 10:00
There Will Be Blood: 11:45am, 1:00, 3:00, 4:30, 6:30, 8:00, 9:50pm

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) *Barton Creek Square mall (MoPac and Highway 360), 306-9190.* Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri-Sat, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:45pm; Sun, 12:30, 2:45; Mon, 12:30, 2:45, 5:10; Tue, 2:45, 5:10; Wed-Thu (2/7), 5:10pm
The Bucket List: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:25, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:45pm; Sun, 12:30, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:45; Mon, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:45; Tue, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:45; Wed-Thu (2/7), 5:00, 7:25, 9:45
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri-Tue, 4:35, 7:00, 10:40; Wed-Thu (2/7), 7:00, 10:40
Cloverfield: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:25, 10:50pm; Mon-Tue, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:25, 10:50; Wed-Thu (2/7), 4:05, 6:15, 8:25, 10:50
****The Eye:*** Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:30, 3:45, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50pm; Mon-Tue, 1:30, 3:45, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50; Wed-Thu (2/7), 4:00, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50
Juno: Fri-Sun, 10:40am, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20pm; Mon-Tue, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20; Wed-Thu (2/7), 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
Mad Money: Fri-Sun, 5:10, 10:45; Mon-Thu (2/7), 7:40, 10:25
****Meet the Spartans:*** Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:35, 10:40pm; Sun, 12:30, 2:25, 4:15, 6:20, 8:35, 10:40; Mon, 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:35, 10:40; Tue, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:35, 10:40; Wed-Thu (2/7), 4:15, 6:20, 8:35, 10:40
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri-Sat, 11:25am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:55pm; Sun-Tue, 2:15, 5:05, 7:55; Wed-Thu (2/7), 5:05, 7:55
No Country for Old Men: 9:15pm
****Over Her Dead Body:*** Fri-Sun, 10:25am, 12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:45, 10:05pm; Mon, 12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:45, 10:05; Tue, 1:00, 3:05, 5:25, 7:45, 10:05; Wed-Thu (2/7), 5:25, 7:45, 10:05
The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie: Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 12:15, 2:30pm; Mon, 12:15, 2:30; Tue, 2:30pm; Wed-Thu (2/7), 4:35pm
****Rambo:*** Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 1:20, 3:40, 6:05, 8:20, 10:45pm; Sun-Tue, 1:20, 3:40, 6:05, 8:20, 10:45; Wed-Thu (2/7), 6:05, 8:20, 10:45
****Strange Wilderness:*** Fri-Sun, 11:35am, 1:50, 4:00, 6:05, 8:15, 10:25pm; Mon-Tue, 1:50, 4:00, 6:05, 8:15, 10:25; Wed-Thu (2/7), 4:00, 6:05, 8:15, 10:25
There Will Be Blood: Fri-Mon, 12:00, 3:25, 7:00, 10:10; Tue, 3:25, 7:00, 10:10; Wed-Thu (2/7), 7:00, 10:10
***27 Dresses* (closed captioned):** Fri-Sun, 11:55am, 2:25, 4:55, 7:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Tue, 2:25, 4:55, 7:30, 10:00; Wed-Thu (2/7), 4:55, 7:30, 10:00
****Untraceable:*** Fri-Sat, 10:05am, 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15pm; Sun-Mon, 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15; Tue, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15; Wed-Thu (2/7), 5:15, 7:50, 10:15

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK *1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.*

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri, 2:40, 4:55; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 2:40, 4:55; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:40, 4:55
****Atonement:*** Fri, 3:45, 6:50, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 12:50, 3:45, 6:50, 10:10; Mon-Thu (2/7), 3:45, 6:50, 10:10
The Bucket List: Fri, 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40
Cloverfield: Fri, 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:00; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:00
****The Eye:*** Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Juno: Fri, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 12:20, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:25; Mon-Thu (2/7), 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:25
Mad Money: 7:20, 9:50
****Meet the Spartans:*** Fri, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:30; Mon-Thu (2/7), 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:30
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20; Mon-Thu (2/7), 4:00, 7:10, 10:20
****Over Her Dead Body:*** Fri, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
****Rambo:*** Fri, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
27 Dresses: Fri, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 12:40, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15; Mon-Thu (2/7), 3:30, 6:30, 9:15
****Untraceable:*** Fri, 2:20, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:55am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:20, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA *12800 Hwy. 71, 800/FANDANGO.*

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri, 2:10, 4:40; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:10, 4:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:10, 4:40
****Atonement:*** Fri, 3:40, 6:35, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 12:25, 3:40, 6:35, 9:45; Mon-Thu (2/7), 3:40, 6:35, 9:45
The Bucket List: Fri, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25
Charlie Wilson's War: 6:15, 9:15
Cloverfield: Fri, 1:55, 4:25, 7:05, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 1:55, 4:25, 7:05, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:55, 4:25, 7:05, 9:30
****The Eye:*** Fri, 2:20, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:25am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:20, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20
Juno: Fri, 2:05, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:05, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
Mad Money: 7:00, 9:40
****Meet the Spartans:*** Fri, 2:00, 4:20, 6:55, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:00, 4:20, 6:55, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:00, 4:20, 6:55, 9:20
****Michael Clayton:*** Fri, 3:20, 6:45, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 3:20, 6:45, 10:00; Mon-Thu (2/7), 3:20, 6:45, 10:00
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri, 3:15, 6:25, 9:35; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 3:15, 6:25, 9:35; Mon-Thu (2/7), 3:15, 6:25, 9:35
****Over Her Dead Body:*** Fri, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 12:05, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30
****Rambo:*** Fri, 2:30, 5:05, 7:30, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:55am, 2:30, 5:05, 7:30, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:30, 5:05, 7:30, 10:05
27 Dresses: Fri, 1:50, 4:30, 7:35, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:35, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:50, 4:30, 7:35, 10:15
****Untraceable:*** Fri, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: Fri, 3:30pm; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 3:30; Mon-Thu (2/7), 3:30pm

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK *2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848.* Discounts daily before 5pm.

American Gangster: Fri, 2:25, 7:00, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 2:25, 7:00, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:25, 7:00, 10:20
August Rush: Fri, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:25
Bee Movie: Fri, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10
Beowulf: Fri, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 10:00
The Game Plan: Fri, 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: Fri, 1:30, 4:10, 7:20, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 1:30, 4:10, 7:20, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:30, 4:10, 7:20, 9:40
****The Perfect Holiday:*** 2:00, 7:30
This Christmas: Fri, 4:45, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 4:45, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 4:45, 10:15
****Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story:*** Fri, 1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:25am, 1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK *4401 N. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.*

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri, 1:15, 3:40; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 1:15, 3:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:15, 3:40
Atonement: 6:30, 9:20
The Bucket List: Fri, 2:10, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:10, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00
Cloverfield: Fri, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:10
****The Eye:*** Fri, 2:00, 4:50, 7:45, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:45, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:00, 4:50, 7:45, 10:20
First Sunday: Fri, 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 10:05am, 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:15
****How She Move:*** 7:15, 9:45
Juno: Fri, 1:50, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:50, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40
Mad Money: Fri, 12:45, 3:30, 6:40, 9:10; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 12:45, 3:30, 6:40, 9:10pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 12:45, 3:30, 6:40, 9:10
****Meet the Spartans:*** Fri, 1:00, 4:15, 7:10, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 1:00, 4:15, 7:10, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:00, 4:15, 7:10, 9:30
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri, 1:20, 4:20, 7:35, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:35, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:20, 4:20, 7:35, 10:30
****Over Her Dead Body:*** Fri, 1:30, 4:05, 7:25, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:30, 4:05, 7:25, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:30, 4:05, 7:25, 9:55
The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie: Fri, 2:50, 5:00; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:50, 5:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:50, 5:00
****Rambo:*** Fri, 2:20, 5:15, 8:00, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:15, 8:00, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 2:20, 5:15, 8:00, 10:25
27 Dresses: Fri, 1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50
****Untraceable:*** Fri, 1:40, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 1:40, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:40, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS *9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.*

Alvin and the Chipmunks: 1:00, 4:00
****Atonement:*** 1:30, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20
The Bucket List: 1:10, 4:20, 7:15, 9:55
Cloverfield: 12:50, 4:25, 7:40, 10:15
****The Eye:*** 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:10
First Sunday: 7:00, 10:05
****How She Move:*** 3:30, 9:40
Juno: 1:15, 3:55, 7:05, 9:50
Mad Money: 12:35, 7:10
****Meet the Spartans:*** 1:25, 3:35, 6:40, 10:00
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: 12:55, 4:10, 7:20, 10:25
****Over Her Dead Body:*** 12:45, 3:40, 6:45, 9:35
****Rambo:*** 1:20, 4:15, 7:30, 10:30
****There Will Be Blood:*** 12:40, 4:05, 8:00
27 Dresses: 1:05, 3:50, 6:50, 9:45
****Untraceable:*** 12:30, 3:45, 6:35, 10:10

DOBIE THEATRE *2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.*

Into the Wild: Fri, 6:50pm; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 6:50; Mon-Thu (2/7), 6:50pm
Juno: Fri, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40; Mon-Thu (2/7), 7:10, 9:40
No Country for Old Men: Fri, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30; Mon-Thu (2/7), 7:00, 9:30
The Orphanage: Fri-Sun, 4:10, 9:50; Mon-Thu (2/7), 9:50pm
Persepolis: Fri, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00; Mon-Thu (2/7), 7:20, 10:00

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 *North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305.* No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without an adult.

Cloverfield: Fri, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:05, 9:10, 11:20; Sat, 10:25am, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:05, 9:10, 11:20pm; Sun, 10:25am, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:05, 9:10pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:05, 9:10
The Eye: Fri, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25, 11:45; Sat, 10:15am, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25, 11:45pm; Sun, 10:15am, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25
First Sunday: Fri, 12mid; Sat, 10:30am, 12mid; Sun, 10:30am
Hannah Montana and Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 11:45, 1:00, 1:45, 3:00, 3:45, 5:00, 5:45, 7:00, 7:45, 9:00, 9:45, 11:00, 11:45pm; Sun, 11:00am, 11:45, 1:00, 1:45, 3:00, 3:45, 5:00, 5:45, 7:00, 7:45, 9:00, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:00, 1:45, 3:00, 3:45, 5:00, 5:45, 7:00, 7:45, 9:00, 9:45
How She Move: Fri-Wed, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20; Thu (2/7), 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10
Meet the Spartans: Fri, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:25; Sat, 11:20am, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:25pm; Sun, 11:20am, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
Over Her Dead Body: Fri, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40, 11:50; Sat, 10:40am, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40, 11:50pm; Sun, 10:40am, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
Rambo: Fri, 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:40; Sat, 10:20am, 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:40pm; Sun, 10:20am, 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10
27 Dresses: Fri-Sat, 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45, 12mid; Sun-Thu (2/7), 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45
Untraceable: Fri, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25, 11:45; Sat, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25, 11:45pm; Sun, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25

GATEWAY THEATRE *9700 Stonelake, between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.*

The Bucket List: 11:35am, 2:05, 4:50, 7:15, 9:55pm
Charlie Wilson's War: 11:30am, 2:00, 4:55, 7:20, 10:00pm
Cloverfield: Fri-Mon, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:35; Tue, 12:15, 5:00, 8:00; Wed, 2:30, 5:00, 10:35; Thu (2/7), 12:15, 5:00, 8:00
***Cloverfield* (open captioned):** Tue, 2:30, 10:35; Wed, 12:15, 8:00; Thu (2/7), 2:30, 10:35
Enchanted: 11:05am, 1:35, 4:10pm
The Eye: 11:20am, 1:45, 4:05, 7:35, 10:15pm
The Great Debaters: 6:40, 9:30
****Hannah Montana and Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour* (3-D):** Fri-Sun, 8:40am, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40, 10:50, 11:50pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40, 10:50
How She Move: 1:40, 6:50
Mad Money: 11:00am, 3:55, 9:35pm
Meet the Spartans: 12:20, 2:35, 4:45, 7:00, 10:40
Michael Clayton: 11:10am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10pm
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: 12:25, 3:30, 6:35, 9:45
Over Her Dead Body: 11:55am, 2:25, 5:15, 7:45, 10:05pm
Rambo: 12:00, 2:20, 5:25, 7:40, 10:20
Strange Wilderness: 11:15am, 1:30, 3:40, 6:45, 9:25pm
27 Dresses: Fri, 12:10, 2:10, 2:40, 4:40, 5:10, 7:10, 7:50, 9:50, 10:30; Sat, 12:10, 2:40, 4:40, 5:10, 7:10, 7:50, 9:50, 10:30, 11:40; Sun, 12:10, 2:10, 2:40, 4:40, 5:10, 7:10, 7:50, 10:30; Mon, 12:10, 2:10, 2:40, 4:40, 9:50, 10:30; Tue-Thu (2/7), 12:10, 2:10, 2:40, 4:40, 5:10, 7:10, 7:50, 9:50, 10:30, 11:40
***27 Dresses* (open captioned):** Fri, 11:40am; Sat, 2:10pm; Sun, 11:40am, 9:50pm; Mon, 11:40am, 7:10pm
Untraceable: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:25pm; Mon, 11:45am, 2:15, 10:25pm; Tue-Thu (2/7), 11:45am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:25pm

IMAX THEATRE *Texas State History Museum (1800 N. Congress), 936-IMAX.*

African Adventure 3D: Safari in the Okavango: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 4:00; Sun, 4:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 12:00, 4:00
Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 2:00pm; Sun, 2:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 11:00am, 2:00pm
Texas: The Big Picture: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 1:00pm; Sun, 1:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/7), 10:00am, 1:00pm
U2 3D: Fri-Sat, 6:00, 7:45, 9:30, 11:10; Sun-Thu (2/7), 6:00, 7:45
Wildfire: Feel the Heat: 3:00, 5:00

LAKELINE STARPORT *Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793.* Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesday.

The Bucket List: 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:15
Cloverfield: 12:40, 3:00, 5:30, 7:55, 10:10
The Eye: 11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50pm
Juno: 12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:20
Meet the Spartans: 12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45
Over Her Dead Body: 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:00
Rambo: 11:45am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 9:55pm
27 Dresses: 12:50, 3:20, 6:50, 9:30
Untraceable: 12:45, 3:10, 7:00, 9:35

METROPOLITAN *South I-35 at Stassney, 447-0101.*

Alvin and the Chipmunks: 11:50am, 2:15, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30pm
Cloverfield: 12:05, 12:40, 2:20, 2:50, 4:50, 5:20, 7:15, 7:45, 9:40, 10:20
The Eye: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:15, 10:45
First Sunday: 11:45am, 2:25, 4:50, 7:55, 10:30pm
The Golden Compass: 12:45, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
I Am Legend: 12:05, 2:35, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25
Into the Wild: 11:45am, 3:15, 6:50, 10:10pm
Mad Money: 11:55am, 2:35, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25pm
Meet the Spartans: 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
One Missed Call: 12:20, 2:45, 5:05, 8:05, 10:35
The Orphanage: 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35
Over Her Dead Body: 12:00, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15
There Will Be Blood: 2:00, 6:30, 10:00

MILLENNIUM THEATRE *1156 Hargrave, 472-6932.* Located within the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex. Adults, $6; children, $4.

****First Sunday:*** Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 12:30, 3:15, 5:15, 8:15pm; Wed-Thu (2/7), 10:30am, 12:30, 3:15, 5:15pm

TEXAS UNION THEATRE *UT campus, 476-6666.*

Cinematheque: ***L'Atalante:*** Mon, 7:30pm

TINSELTOWN NORTH *North I-35 and FM 1825 (Pflugerville), 512/989-8540.*

Alvin and the Chipmunks: 12:05, 2:50, 5:25
Atonement: 7:35, 10:20
The Bucket List: 1:50, 4:30, 7:05, 9:35
Cloverfield: 11:45am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:00, 7:50, 9:25, 10:10pm
****The Eye:*** 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
First Sunday: 12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20
****Hannah Montana and Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour* ($15 special engagement in DLP digital):** 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40
****How She Move:*** 11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45pm
I Am Legend: 11:55am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:00pm
Juno: 12:05, 2:40, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10
Mad Money: 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30
****Meet the Spartans:*** 11:50am, 2:05, 4:35, 6:55, 9:20pm
****National Treasure: Book of Secrets:*** 12:20, 3:25, 6:30, 9:40
****Over Her Dead Body:*** 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie: 11:55am, 2:20, 4:55pm
****Rambo:*** 12:15, 2:00, 2:45, 4:30, 5:15, 7:00, 7:50, 9:30, 10:15
****Strange Wilderness:*** 12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:45, 10:05
****There Will Be Blood:*** 11:40am, 3:15, 6:45, 10:05pm
27 Dresses: 11:50am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35pm
****Untraceable:*** 11:45am, 2:25, 5:05, 7:40, 10:25pm

TINSELTOWN SOUTH *South I-35 at Stassney, 326-3800.* $10 "special event" ticket prices apply to Indian films.

Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem: 7:10, 9:50
Atonement: 3:55, 7:05, 10:15
The Bucket List: Fri, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45; Mon-Thu (2/7), 4:30, 7:15, 9:45
****How She Move:*** Fri, 4:00, 4:50, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 1:05, 2:00, 4:00, 4:50, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10; Mon-Thu (2/7), 4:00, 4:50, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10
Juno: Fri, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05; Mon-Thu (2/7), 4:40, 7:20, 10:05
****Michael Clayton:*** Fri, 4:00, 6:55, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 4:00, 6:55, 10:00; Mon-Thu (2/7), 4:00, 6:55, 10:00
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: 3:40, 7:00, 10:00
No Country for Old Men: Fri, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40; Mon-Thu (2/7), 3:50, 6:50, 9:40
****Rambo:*** Fri, 4:15, 5:05, 6:40, 7:40, 9:25, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 1:35, 2:10, 4:15, 5:05, 6:40, 7:40, 9:25, 10:25; Mon-Thu (2/7), 4:15, 5:05, 6:40, 7:40, 9:25, 10:25
****Strange Wilderness:*** Fri, 3:15, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20; Mon-Thu (2/7), 3:15, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: Fri, 4:20, 7:25, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:25, 10:15; Mon-Thu (2/7), 4:20, 7:25, 10:15
****Teeth:*** Fri, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55; Mon-Thu (2/7), 4:35, 7:15, 9:55
27 Dresses: Fri, 3:45, 4:25, 6:30, 7:35, 9:30, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 3:45, 4:25, 6:30, 7:35, 9:30, 10:20; Mon-Thu (2/7), 3:45, 4:25, 6:30, 7:35, 9:30, 10:20
****Untraceable:*** Fri, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 1:05, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; Mon-Thu (2/7), 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: Fri, 4:05pm; Sat-Sun, 1:15, 4:05; Mon-Thu (2/7), 4:05pm

WESTGATE 11 *South Lamar and Ben White, 899-2717.* Discounts daily before 6pm.

Atonement: 12:40, 4:00, 6:45, 9:35
The Bucket List: 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:15, 9:40
Cloverfield: 12:00, 2:05, 4:15, 8:10, 10:15
The Eye: 11:50am, 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45pm
Juno: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00
Meet the Spartans: 12:35, 2:50, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
Over Her Dead Body: 2:35, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45
Rambo: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
There Will Be Blood: 11:40am, 3:05, 6:30, 9:55pm
27 Dresses: 11:45am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25pm
Untraceable: 11:55am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:25, 9:50pm

▸ *An asterisk (*) before a title means that no passes or special admission discounts will be accepted.*

▸ *Changes may sometimes occur; viewers are encouraged to call theatres to confirm showtimes.*

SHARKWATER

D: Rob Stewart. (PG, 89 min.)

Stewart, a Toronto-based marine biologist and underwater photographer, makes up for in passion what he lacks in narrative subtlety. *Sharkwater*, his documentary on the plight of the shark (and that's *all* sharks, everywhere in the ocean) in the face of a massive, 20-year boom in the Asian demand for shark's fin soup and such, is as beautiful as it is horrifying. Ultimately, the film leaves the viewer a simmering rage against the various governments (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Taiwan) that have allowed a manmade mass extinction to occur on their watch while hiding behind unenforceable international "agreements" to do otherwise. Stewart, who looks to be about 20, narrates his film in a tone that falls somewhere between oceanic *noir* and blithe Han Soloisms ("This time I knew we were in real trouble" is his version of "I've got a bad feeling about this," apparently). As *Sharkwater* moves from its initial setup (which includes the now-common observation that sharks aren't man-eaters at all, but man-biters – and only occasionally at that), it morphs into a bizarre, genre-hopping realm populated by Costa Rican gunboats, illegal high-seas longline fishing pirates, national malfeasance, corruption, and full-bore adventure stories of good vs. evil, 20,000 fathoms above the seabed. Stewart interviews pro-finning figures, including Asian shark's fin entrepreneur William Goh of Rabbit Brand, who defends his industry with the surreal argument that the shark is "a very fierce animal … they bite you and tear you, there is pain, and you die." Well, no, actually, unless you're Robert Shaw, they don't. Stewart sets out to uncover the truth behind the shark-finning industry and, to his and our good fortune, falls in with legendary "rogue conservationist" Paul Watson's Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and ends up aboard Watson's equally outlandish vessel *Ocean Warrior*. Watson, the subject of a recent *New Yorker* profile, is known in environmental circles as something of a modern-day Capt. Nemo, charging into lawless international waters to stop illegal longline fishing and shark-finning by brute force (the *Ocean Warrior* has razor-sharp, hull-slashing "can openers" welded to its sides and sails under a black flag complete with skull and crossed trident-and-shepherd's staff) and strategic guile. Once Watson enters the picture, *Sharkwater* sails into cloak-and-dagger (or trident) territory, with the captain and crew – and Stewart – getting arrested by the Costa Rican government and charged with seven counts of attempted murder, all stemming from their attempt to "arrest" a Costa Rican longline fishing vessel operating illegally. Truth is, once again, stranger and far more interesting than fiction, but Stewart, whose youthful idealism makes for passionate but uneven filmmaking, should scuttle further oceanic pedantry and focus his lens on Watson's "good pirate" efforts to sabotage the "bad pirates" and save the sea. – *Marc Savlov*

★★½ Alamo Ritz

SPIKE & MIKE'S SICK & TWISTED FESTIVAL OF ANIMATION 2008

D: Various. (NR, 0 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. This cartoon program always lives up to its sick-and-twisted premise, offering a compilation of

old and new spectacles guaranteed to rot your eyeballs. The hosts also deliver raunchy preshow antics and an ongoing fountain of filth as things progress. Austin animator Bob Ray will be attending the 9:45pm and midnight shows on Friday and Saturday to present his new cartoons "Apeshit" and "Butter Face." – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Alamo Ritz

STRANGE WILDERNESS

D: Fred Wolf; with Steve Zahn, Allen Covert, Jonah Hill, Ashley Scott, Peter Dante, Harry Hamlin, Robert Patrick, Joe Don Baker, Justin Long, Jeff Garlin, Ernest Borgnine. (R, 87 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. When a popular wildlife TV show starts slipping in the ratings, the clueless hosts go off to the Andes in search of Bigfoot and big ratings. Big mistake. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

First Runs

***Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.**

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR: REQUIEM

D: Greg Strause, Colin Strause; with Steven Pasquale, Reiko Aylesworth, John Ortiz. (R, 86 min.)

This sequel to the much-maligned *Aliens vs. Predator* is an orgy of mindless violence, a random collection of bloody bodies, alien misanthropy, and slobbering carnage designed to bore straight into the pleasure centers of 13-year-old boys and leave the rest of us wondering when the movies got so damn loud. I won't go too deeply into the film's plot because I don't want to ruin it for you, but I can tell you that a UFO carrying a pack of salivating aliens like those that tormented Sigourney Weaver back in the Eighties crash-lands in the woods outside a small town in Colorado, followed by the arrival of a predator (of the dreadlocked variety that tormented Jesse "the Body" Ventura back in the Eighties), who's hunting down the aliens one by one. Needless to say, it isn't long before the first human being gets caught in the cross fire. *(12/28/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*
★½ Tinseltown South

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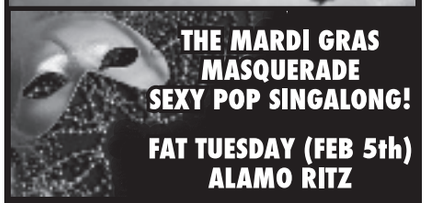
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Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation
opening Feb 1 at the Ritz



SHARKWATER
FEB 1-7 AT THE RITZ





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FRI, FEB 1	THERE WILL BE BLOOD	330	700	1020
	SHARKWATER			445
	SPIKE & MIKE SICK & TWISTED FEST	715	945	MIDNIGHT
SAT, FEB 2	THERE WILL BE BLOOD	1200	330	700 1020
	SHARKWATER		1215	230 445
	SPIKE & MIKE SICK & TWISTED FEST	715	945	MIDNIGHT
SUN, FEB 3	THERE WILL BE BLOOD	1200	330	700 1020
	SHARKWATER		1215	230 445
	SPIKE & MIKE SICK & TWISTED FEST			715 945
MON, FEB 4	THERE WILL BE BLOOD			500
	THERE WILL BE BLOOD w/ RUSSELL HARVARD LIVE			830
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TUES, FEB 5	THERE WILL BE BLOOD			500 830
	SHARKWATER			445
	AFS ESSENTIAL: EL BRUTO			700
	MARDI GRAS MASQ. SEXY POP SINGALONG			930
WEDS, FEB 6	THERE WILL BE BLOOD			500
	THERE WILL BE BLOOD w/ RUSSELL HARVARD LIVE			830
	SHARKWATER			445
	DIONYSIUM			700
	SPIKE & MIKE SICK & TWISTED FEST		930	MIDNIGHT
	FREE WEIRD WEDS: THE HUMAN TORNADO			MIDNIGHT
THU, FEB 7	THERE WILL BE BLOOD			500 830
	SHARKWATER			445
	LOVE BITES: POWER BALLAD SINGALONG			930
	SPIKE & MIKE SICK & TWISTED FEST		700	MIDNIGHT
	TERROR THURS: WELCOME TO ARROW BEACH			MIDNIGHT

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TEETH 1120*	130*	400	700	915	1135
SWEENEY TODD	1125*	205*	445	740	1025
JUNO	1145*	215*	440	735	1010
THE BIG GAME FREE ADMISSION!			430		(Sun)

VILLAGE - ANDERSON LANE WEST OF BURNET

THERE WILL BE BLOOD	1145*	315	700	1030	
RAMBO ✦	1205*	230*	455	720	1010
CLOVERFIELD	1215*	230*	445	730	945
THE BUCKET LIST	120*	355	705	955*	
MASTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST CLUB	945	MIDNIGHT			(Sat)
ROCKY HORROR		MIDNIGHT			(Sat)
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RAMBO (13:55 3:30) 7:40 10:15✦
There Will Be Blood (11:30 2:00) 7:00 10:30
27 Dresses (12:05 2:55) 7:15 10:00
CLOVERFIELD (12:30 3:30) 7:35 10:25
STRANGE WILDERNESS (12:15 3:05) 7:05 9:55✦
THE BUCKET LIST (12:00 2:15*) 4:30* 7:20* 10:25✦
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (12:10 3:10) 7:10 10:20

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HANNAH MONTANA & MILEY CYRUS: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS CONCERT IN(G) Fri. & Sat. 11:00 11:45 1:00 1:45 3:00 3:45 5:00 5:45 7:00 7:45 9:00 9:45 11:00 11:45
Sun. 11:00 11:45 1:00 1:45 3:00 3:45 5:00 5:45 7:00 7:45 9:00 9:45
Mon. - Thu. 1:00 1:45 3:00 3:45 5:00 5:45 7:00 7:45 9:00 9:45

MEET THE SPARTANS (PG-13) Fri. 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20 11:25
Sat. 11:20 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20 11:25
Sun. 11:20 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20
Mon. - Thu. 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20

OVER HER DEAD BODY (PG-13) Fri. 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:40 11:50
Sat. 10:40 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:40 11:50
Sun. 10:40 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:40
Mon. - Thu. 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:40

THE EYE (PG-13) Fri. 12:25 2:40 4:55 7:10 9:25 11:45
Sat. 10:15 12:25 2:40 4:55 7:10 9:25 11:45
Sun. 10:15 12:25 2:40 4:55 7:10 9:25
Mon. - Thu. 12:25 2:40 4:55 7:10 9:25

RAMBO (R) Fri. 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10 11:40
Sat. 10:20 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10 11:40
Sun. 10:20 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
Mon. - Thu. 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

UNTRACEABLE (R) Fri. 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25 11:45
Sat. 10:00 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25 11:45
Sun. 10:00 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25
Mon. - Thu. 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25

CLOVERFIELD (PG-13) Fri. 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:05 9:10 11:20
Sat. 10:25 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:05 9:10 11:20
Sun. 10:25 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:05 9:10
Mon. - Thu. 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:05 9:10

27 DRESSES (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:05 2:30 4:55 7:20 9:45 11:59
Sun. - Thu. 12:05 2:30 4:55 7:20 9:45

HOW SHE MOVE (PG-13) Fri. - Wed. 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:10 9:20
Thu. 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:10

FIRST SUNDAY (PG-13) Fri. 11:59
Sat. 10:30 11:59
Sun. 10:30

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Dirt Road to Psychedelia



***Dirt Road to Psychedelia* (2007)** *D: Scott Conn. (NR, 72 min.)* **Music Monday.** Conn's vital documentary contribution to Austin cultural history weaves oral history from informed sources with a wealth of decades-old photographs and Super-8 footage to tell the story of how Austin came to be something worth keeping weird. It traces the local youth culture's change-over from beatniks to hippies, folkies to rockers, and potheads to day-trippers. Inevitably, the music is a big part of the story with stops along the way to examine Janis Joplin's Austin years, the 13th Floor Elevators, the Vulcan Gas Company, and so much more. @Alamo Ritz, Mon., 10pm; $2.

L'Atalante



***L'Atalante* (1934)** *D: Jean Vigo; with Dita Parlo, Jean Daste, Michel Simon. (NR, 89 min.)* **Austin Cinematheque.** This French classic is a work of enduring poetry that has launched a thousand other movies. Vigo died shortly after completing the shoot. Nearly 10 minutes of footage were restored in the early Nineties. (*) @ Texas Union Theatre, Mon., 7:30pm; free.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS

D: Tim Hill; with Jason Lee, David Cross, Cameron Richardson, Jane Lynch; with the voices of Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney. (PG, 92 min.)

What's it all about, Alvin? Apparently it's about rebranding a musty old comic conceit for a whole new generation of proto-Willards. The adenoidal animated vermin of Ross Bagdasarian Sr. and Jr. have arrived via CGI in this live-action update/companion to the Bagdasarian family's lengthy *rodentia comicus*-related history, the pinnacle of which remains 1958's holiday novelty tune "The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)." Hill's Chipmunk tale is a strictly by-the-numbers affair, aimed in the most generic direction conceivable. Lee plays Dave, a well-intentioned but bumbling songwriter aided and abetted in life and love (and icky-sweet pop music) by My Three Chipmunks. *Mr. Show*'s Cross is a duplicitous record mogul, who plays nice with Dave while conniving behind his back (boo!), and Richardson is the mutant-model-photographer-chick-thing Dave's all gooey on. Will true love prevail? Will Dave grow a backbone (and some real songwriting talent)? They shoot rodents, don't they? *(12/14/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*

★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

ATONEMENT

D: Joe Wright; with Keira Knightley, James McAvoy, Saoirse Ronan, Romola Garai, Vanessa Redgrave, Benedict Cumberbatch, Brenda Blethyn, Juno Temple, Daniel Mays. (R, 130 min.)

Imagination typically should be encouraged in children, but an excess of it leads to tragedy in this more than worthy adaptation of Ian McEwan's novel. Thirteen-year-old Briony (the wonderfully unnerving novice Ronan) is indulged, but also largely ignored, by her family, which includes her headstrong 19-year-old sister, Cecilia (Knightley, seductively husky, winc-ingly angular). One day in 1935, Briony witnesses a bewildering act that involves Cecilia and the house-keeper's son, Robbie (McAvoy). Only later does she realize how one person's vantage, one person's *truth*, doesn't always square with another's. But that epiphany doesn't arrive until the film's second of three sections, when a now-18-year-old Briony (Garai) attempts to write a novelization of that day in 1935. (The film's epilogue takes place in modern times.) *Atonement* is a work consumed with the nature of storytelling and the moral responsibility of the storyteller. The film is not quite as brutalizing as McEwan's brilliant source novel, but it ravishes nonetheless in its grand exploration of the sins of the daughter and a lifetime spent making reparations. *(12/14/2007)* – *Kimberley Jones*

★★★★ Arbor, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE BUCKET LIST

D: Rob Reiner; with Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman, Sean Hayes, Beverly Todd, Rob Morrow, Alfonso Freeman, Rowena King, Annton Berry Jr., Verda Bridges. (PG-13, 97 min.)

Apart from their advanced years, their shared hospital room, and terminal cancer, Edward Cole (Nicholson) and Carter Chambers (Freeman) have nothing in common – which means, of course, they're destined to become best friends. In Reiner's latest exercise in syrupy nonsense, Cole and Chambers leave behind their depressing hospital beds and chemotherapy sessions and jump into Cole's private jet to check items off their bucket list (that being the list of things they want to do before they kick the bucket). For an hour, they drive sports cars at high speeds, travel to exotic countries, and check out the Himalayas, whooping and hollering as they go. They also aim for slightly vaguer, more "mystical" goals, such as laughing until they cry, witnessing something majestic, and finding the joy in their lives, making *The Bucket List* the 400th movie to come out of Hollywood in the last 10 years to mistake bumper-sticker self-help platitudes for spirituality. *(01/11/2008)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR

D: Mike Nichols; with Tom Hanks, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Julia Roberts, Amy Adams, Ned Beatty, Denis O'Hare. (R, 97 min.)

Accents by way of *Hee Haw* aside, not once in this would-be political romp do we forget that the man and woman before us, embodying such outré real-life characters as a hard-partying con-gressman and a born-again Houston socialite, are anyone other than the beloved institutions of Tom and Julia. Based on George Crile's book, *Charlie Wilson's War* tells the true-life story of how Texan Rep. Wilson (Hanks), best known for booz-ing and keeping company with *Playboy* Playmates, managed to raise $1 billion with the help of socialite Joanne Herring (Roberts) to secretly fund Afghanistan's mujahideen in their fight against the invading Soviet Union in the early Eighties. Sounds a little wonky, I know, but, as adapted by *The West Wing*'s Aaron Sorkin, the historical context and current affairs are laid out clearly and engagingly. That said, there's a hokeyness afoot. Same goes for Nichols' flat direction. This is a visually and emotionally soft affair, and the mate-rial calls for something with far sharper edges. *(12/21/2007)* – *Kimberley Jones*

★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Gateway

CLOVERFIELD

D: Matt Reeves; with Michael Stahl-David, Mike Vogel, Odette Yustman, Lizzy Caplan, Jessica Lucas, T.J. Miller. (PG-13, 85 min.)

Cloverfield isn't a horror film – it's a pure-blood, grade A, exultantly exhilarating *monster movie* in the grand tradition of *The Beast From 20,000 Fathoms* and *It Came From Beneath the Sea*. What makes *Cloverfield* so memorable and such a genuinely riveting filmgoing experience has less to do with the creature itself, whatever it is, and everything to do with Reeves' direction and a whip-smart, stylistically invisible screenplay that dispenses entirely with any and all genre rules and, brilliantly, views the catastrophic, literally earthshaking events through the lens of one char-acter's digital video camera, complete with rough, nerve-jangling, in-camera edits and an "official" Department of Defense Eyes Only time stamp. It's *Blair Witch* meets *Godzilla*, with the audience allowed only as much information about what, exactly, is happening as the characters have them-selves, and it works fantastically well. And that's key to the film's second stroke of genius: its nearly subconscious evocation of our current paranoid, terror-phobic times. *(01/18/2008)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY

D: Julian Schnabel; with Mathieu Amalric, Emmanuelle Seigner, Marie-Josée Croze, Anne Consigny, Patrick Chesnais, Niels Arestrup, Olatz López Garmendia. (PG-13, 112 min., subtitled)

In his brilliant new film, painter/sculptor/direc-tor Schnabel defies dozens of moviemaking con-ventions to tell the true story of Jean-Dominique Bauby, the French writer and editor who suffered a massive stroke that left him with a rare condition called locked-in syndrome. This may sound like the makings of the dullest protagonist in motion-picture history, but Bauby was able to write a 150-page bestselling memoir by using a dictation system developed by his speech therapist that involved an adjusted alphabet and repetitive blinking. Schnabel uses his stunning visual sense to blur the line between experience and memory, desire and reality, to create an original world that exists almost entire-ly inside Bauby's head. It's equal parts reverie, despair, and social experiment. His Bauby (Amalric) is no pity case; he's a sophisticated ironist aware of the confusion and fear he engenders in those around him, and his memoir is a testament to human ingenuity and the beauty that can be found in resignation. *(01/11/2008)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★★★★ Arbor



The Eye

ENCHANTED

D: Kevin Lima; with Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden, Susan Sarandon, Timothy Spall, Rachel Covey, Idina Menzel. (PG, 107 min.)

It's difficult to describe the mixture of romance, dry satire, and musical comedy that is the new Disney film *Enchanted*. But one thing's for certain: Adams (*Junebug*) is its heart and soul. Her ability to play wild-eyed innocence with a biting comic edge never disappoints. And as Giselle, she's per-fectly cast as an amalgam of every fairy-tale maid-en. The film begins in an all-too-familiar animated wonderland. Giselle is an innocent forest-dwelling babe who sings with animals and dreams of finding her true love before she is cast out by a jealous queen (Sarandon) and lands in the center of Times Square. What's more, she's no longer animated. Though writer Bill Kelly's script takes extreme liber-ties with plot development and never really leaves you guessing about who will get the girl, the jokes rarely miss, and the result is a refreshingly sar-donic fairy tale. *(11/23/2007)* – *Toddy Burton*

★★★½ Gateway

FIRST SUNDAY

D: David E. Talbert; with Ice Cube, Tracy Morgan, Katt Williams, Loretta Devine, Chi McBride, Michael Beach, Keith David, Regina Hall, Malinda Williams. (PG-13, 98 min.)

It's become increasingly difficult to recall that Ice Cube was once upon a time one of the most incendiary and trenchant voices in hip-hop. He's now Public Enemy Number Fun, although *First Sunday* is only fun if you're in dire need of a modernist urban take on the strain of comedy Abbott and Costello used to practice, which, let's be honest, wasn't that funny to begin with. Cube plays Durell, an air-conditioning-repair whiz whose best pal, the criminally stupid LeeJohn (*30 Rock*'s Morgan) convinces him to take part in a scheme to rob the local church in order to score the cash necessary to a) save LeeJohn from a bloodthirsty posse of Jamaican drug thugs and b) pay the lease on a salon for Durell's ex (Hall). The robbery, need-less to say, goes awry with robbers, preachers, and parishioners getting plenty of "values" dialogue but almost no laughs. *(01/18/2008)* – *Marc Savlov*

★ CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Metropolitan, Millennium, Tinseltown North

THE GOLDEN COMPASS

D: Chris Weitz; with Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig, Dakota Blue Richards, Ben Walker, Eva Green, Jim Carter, Tom Courtenay, Sam Elliott, Christopher Lee, Simon McBurney; with the voices of Freddie Highmore, Ian McKellen, Ian McShane, Kristin Scott Thomas, Kathy Bates. (PG-13, 113 min.)

Although *The Golden Compass* rejects the anti-organized-religion bent of the source material, British children's author Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy, the film interprets the novels' evil Magisterium – a society-controlling organiza-tion meant to stand in for the church (any church, really) – as something just as evil but more Nazi-inspired. The film charts the coming of age of Lyra Belacqua (Richards, a dirtied delight), a 12-year-old orphan living in a steampunk universe parallel to Oxford, England, whose fate – which has something to do with a holy, multiverse war yet to come – was long ago predicted by witches. Yup, it's that kind of world: witches, gyptians (seafaring gypsies), and, most delightfully, daemons, which are the animal manifestations of human souls. This is a terrify-ing world in which trouble is visited regularly on small children. Writer/director Weitz far exceeds here, in vision and ambition, the perfectly pass-able entertainments of *American Pie* and *About a Boy*. The special effects are mostly spectacular. *(12/07/2007)* – *Kimberley Jones*

★★★ Metropolitan

THE GREAT DEBATERS

D: Denzel Washington; with Washington, Forest Whitaker, Nate Parker, Jurnee Smollett, Denzel Whitaker, Kimberly Elise, John Heard. (PG-13, 123 min.)

In his second outing as a director, Washington chooses an inspirational story; yet even though *The Great Debaters* is a historical story worth telling, the film is hobbled by the narrative predictability that inevitably governs this type of drama. Like his first directorial effort, *Antwone Fisher*, *The Great Debaters* is based on a true story in which Washington casts himself in the role of the elder leading man, the guiding figure who helps characters from the younger generation overcome the damage of their past and grab hold of the opportunities for their future. Although Washington is perfectly fine in his performance here as the professor and coach of Wiley College's national-championship-winning debate team in 1935, the role calls for no special showmanship on the part of the dependably brilliant actor. So, too, as the director, Washington brings no special stylistic flourish to the film, instead placing himself at the straightforward service of the Oprah Winfrey-produced story. *(12/21/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★½ Gateway

HOW SHE MOVE

D: Ian Iqbal Rashid; with Rutina Wesley, Dwain Murphy, Tre Armstrong, Kevin Duhaney. (PG-13, 98 min.)

There aren't many surprises in this Canadian film about step dancing, and even if there were, they'd be low-lit and fuzzy (*How She Move*, which screened at last year's Sundance, wears its low budget on its sleeve; the upshot is a cast of unknowns who are naturals). Following competition films' natural trajectory, this one culminates in the mixed-sex team of Raya (Wesley) and Bishop (Murphy) heading to the annual Stepmonster Competition in Detroit, where the competition flies fast and furious in a montage that accents step's astonishing meld of artistry and brute physicality (although any highlight reel must begin and end with a glorious slow pan of denim-clad booty). This kind of a dance film lives and dies by the routines, and this one wins: Mixing elements of gymnastics, karate, and break with the almighty step – an exceedingly polite term for what is really an awesome stomp – the dance sequences'll root out the beat in even the sorriest *Bandstand* bystander. *(01/25/2008)* – *Kimberley Jones*

★★★ CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

I AM LEGEND

D: Francis Lawrence; with Will Smith, Alice Braga, Charlie Tahan, Salli Richardson, Willow Smith, Dash Mihok, Darrell Foster, April Grace, Joanna Numata. (PG-13, 100 min.)

Smith plays Robert Neville, a military immunologist who is the only real human left in New York. By day he wanders the city's empty avenues with his German shepherd, scavenging for food and gasoline; by night he barricades himself in his apartment with his rifle to wait for the living dead to break down the door. All this happens during the film's first 10 minutes, so initially I was optimistic. First of all, Lawrence's desolate Manhattan is a wonder to behold. And secondly, Smith's Neville is no unblinking model of action-film courage; he is terrified, lonely, and racked with guilt over his inability to save the lives of … well, anyone – a guilt he tries to assuage by working on a vaccine to save humanity, not to mention his own soul. Unfortunately, after the first 10 minutes, it's all downhill for *I Am Legend*, as the film descends into a monster-movie malaise starring a horde of balding CGI monsters. *(12/14/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*

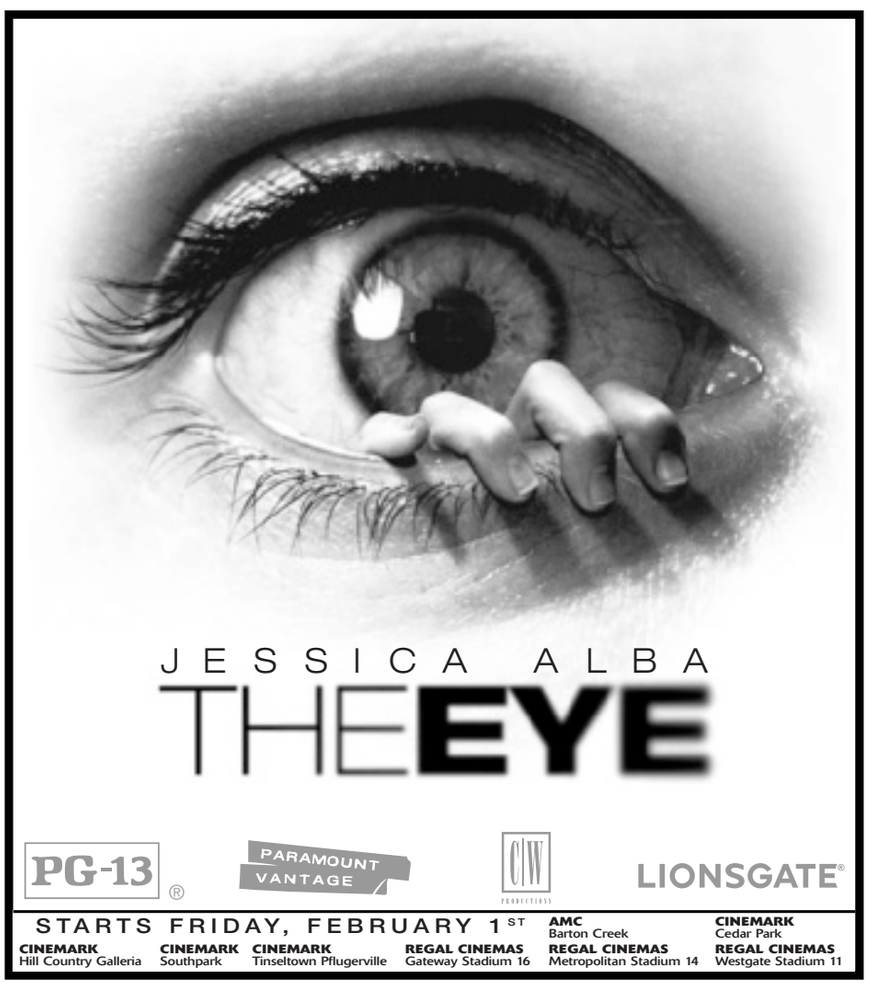
★½ Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

INTO THE WILD

D: Sean Penn; with Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gay Harden, William Hurt, Jena Malone, Brian Dierker, Catherine Keener, Vince Vaughn, Kristen Stewart, Hal Holbrook. (R, 140 min.)

On April 28, 1992, a scraggly 24-year-old tramp and adventurer named Christopher McCandless walked into the Alaskan wilderness and was never heard from again. These events were brilliantly chronicled in 1996 by Jon Krakauer in his bestselling book *Into the Wild*,







El Bruto



***El Bruto* (1953)** *D: Luis Buñuel; with Pedro Armendáriz, Katy Jurado, Rosa Arenas, Andrés Soler. (NR, 81 min.)* **Austin Film Society: 3 Mexicanas en Hollywood.** From Buñuel's Mexican period comes this melodrama about a brawny but not-too-brainy enforcer for a landlord who is trying to evict his tenants. Instead, the enforcer has an affair with the landlord's wife, accidentally kills the leader of the tenants group, and then falls in love with the dead man's daughter. Jurado won the Silver Ariel award for her Best Supporting Actress role as the landlord's wife. See **austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?oid=oid:575556** for more on series. @Alamo Ritz, Tue., 7pm; $4, AFS members free.

which was permeated by a sense of sadness and distance that left readers with the unsettling feeling that McCandless' haunted life and solitary death would remain forever unknowable. Unfortunately, an unknowable character makes for a stubborn film protagonist. And though Penn has conjured up a beautifully acted, visually bracing film that captures all the romantic energy and freedom of a life spent outside the bounds of society, somewhere along the way he misplaced that melancholy that made McCandless' story so devastating. Penn's McCandless (a wiry Hirsch) is a 21st century Hollywood hero, armed with a mouthful of self-help platitudes about following your heart and living life to the fullest but possessing precious little mystery. *(10/19/2007)* *– Josh Rosenblatt*
★★★ Dobie, Metropolitan

JUNO

D: Jason Reitman; with Ellen Page, Michael Cera, Jennifer Garner, Jason Bateman, Allison Janney, J.K. Simmons. (PG-13, 92 min.)

When 16-year-old Juno (Page) pays for her pregnancy test with the stick still in hand, the cashier wisecracks, "This is one diddle that can't be undid, home skillet." That quip, care of screenwriter and freshly minted Hot New Thing Diablo Cody, almost had me audibly groaning: So it's gonna be like that, is it? Well, yes and no. The quips keep coming, but they slow, and *Juno* settles into a sharp, winning relationship comedy. But, like everything else in the winsome *Juno*, what plays for laughs has an undeniable ring of real emotion. Spend enough time with Juno's deadpan and her irony, and you learn how to read between the lines, to the scared, confused, and royally pissed teenager underneath the brazen, Buddha-bellied exterior (a "cautionary whale," she calls herself). Page (*Hard Candy*) is marvelous, especially considering what a balancing act the role is between bitchy and twee, and she's backed by a terrific ensemble cast. *(12/21/2007)* *– Kimberley Jones*
★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

MAD MONEY

D: Callie Khouri; with Diane Keaton, Katie Holmes, Queen Latifah, Ted Danson, Adam Rothenberg, Roger Cross. (PG-13, 104 min.)

Move over, Gordon Gecko: The new poster boy for American greed in the movies isn't a silver-tongued corporate hustler with pomaded hair and a closet full of $10,000 suits. In fact, the new poster boy for American greed in the movies isn't a boy at all. I know you won't believe me when I tell you, but you've been replaced by Diane Keaton. For Keaton's upper-middle-aged, upper-middle-class suburban housewife-turned-bank-robber Bridget Cardigan, greed isn't good because it's good for America or good for the species; greed is good because it's good for her. How's that for evolution? In *Mad Money*, *Thelma & Louise* screenwriter Khouri once again sets her sights on scorned women (including fellow janitors Latifah and Holmes) getting their revenge on a callous society, but the goal here isn't freedom; it's opportunity, vindication, good times, and the promise of bottomless bags filled with cash money. *(01/25/2008)* *– Josh Rosenblatt*
★★½ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

MICHAEL CLAYTON

D: Tony Gilroy; with George Clooney, Tom Wilkinson, Tilda Swinton, Sydney Pollack, Michael O'Keefe, Denis O'Hare, Ken Howard. (R, 119 min.)

This meticulous legal thriller – a smart and thoroughly entertaining film – thoughtfully asks the question of where a lawyer's ethical responsibility to zealously represent a client ends and the societal interest in achieving justice begins. In *Michael Clayton* the truth is a slippery thing, particularly when billions of dollars are at stake in a class-action lawsuit. When the brilliant lead attorney for the corporate defendant suffers a public meltdown during a deposition, his high-powered law firm brings in the titular character to "fix" the situation. Michael Clayton (Clooney) is the firm's highly paid "janitor," a man who cleans up messes before they become something unmanageable. The irony is that Clayton is unable to clean up his own mess of a life. Director/screenwriter Gilroy has crafted a streamlined screenplay that is both sleek and provocative, with few subplots and loose ends to distract you from the narrative's essence. The acting is superb across the board. *(10/12/2007)* *– Steve Davis*
★★★★ Hill Country Galleria, Gateway, Tinseltown South

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS

D: Jon Turteltaub; with Nicolas Cage, Jon Voight, Ed Harris, Helen Mirren, Justin Bartha, Diane Kruger, Harvey Keitel, Bruce Greenwood. (PG, 124 min.)

Less twisty than its 2004 predecessor and yet somehow more incoherent, *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* plays like a duplicate schematic of the first. Treasure hunter Benjamin Franklin Gates (Cage) lights on a noble cause; enlists a plucky cast of fellow hunters, code crackers, and danger enthusiasts (including the unsung Bartha, as Gates' geekboy Friday); then goes on a globe-hopping quest that amounts to a cinematic series of Russian nesting dolls – crack one clue, and you're awarded with another, equally inscrutable one. I don't mean to sound like a sourpuss: There's certainly a place for this kind of entertainment, and the first outing – same director, same screenwriters (husband-and-wife team Cormac and Marianne Wibberley), same cast – was pleasantly rompy and even sweetly patriotic in its history-buff bent. *Book of Secrets*, however, isn't so much a romp as a long trudge through American history factoids and conspiracy-theory gobbledygook. Cool car chase, though. *(12/28/2007)* *– Kimberley Jones*
★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

D: Joel Coen, Ethan Coen; with Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Kelly Macdonald, Woody Harrelson, Garret Dillahunt, Barry Corbin, Tess Harper, Stephen Root. (R, 122 min.)

It seems at first like an odd pairing: the Coen brothers, they of the dark-humored film genre conflations, and Cormac McCarthy, the modern laureate of the Southern Gothic novel. Yet the Coens' adaptation of McCarthy's as-if-written-for-the-screen *No Country for Old Men* becomes a marvelous meld of sensibilities. The film is essentially a crime drama, although also something of a chase film. It holds up against the Coens' earlier genre masterpieces like *Miller's Crossing* and *Fargo* and makes recent genre misfires like *Intolerable Cruelty* and *The Ladykillers* more forgivable. The *No Country for Old Men* storyline is as old as the template for the brothers' first film, *Blood Simple*: Follow the money. At least three characters are chasing a satchel filled with $2 million. One of them is Anton Chigurh (Bardem), a character who immediately leaps to the forefront of indelible American monsters. As it unfolds, the cat-and-mouse chase is a sheer delight to watch. The performances are captivating, too. *(11/16/2007)* *– Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Dobie, Tinseltown South

ONE MISSED CALL

D: Eric Valette; with Ed Burns, Shannyn Sossamon, Ana Claudia Talancón, Ray Wise, Azura Skye. (PG-13, 87 min.)

The J-horror trend initiated by Hideo Nakata's 1998 viral freakout *Ringu*, which along with nearly every other film in the genre has been remade multiple times throughout Asia and the U.S., is way past its expired-by date, asphyxiated on soggy tendrils of lank, black hair and kabuki-doomy, fright-faced shock cuts. Takashi Miike's 2003 foray into technophobic Japanese horror (the source for this ill-advised American remake) was a creative dud for the Japanese director. Valette's film, whose premise involves cell-phone calls from the soon-to-be-deceased to their predemised selves, is even less engaging than the original. Since Burns is on board as a stodgy, tired-looking detective who has lost his sister to the ring tones o' woe, female lead Sossamon has someone to furrow brows with and mull over the unmullable. Apart from some borderline-clever cinematography courtesy of Glen MacPherson, there's precious little to make anyone want to answer this doleful call. *(01/11/2008)* *– Marc Savlov*
½ Metropolitan

THE ORPHANAGE

D: Juan Antonio Bayona; with Belén Rueda, Fernando Cayo, Roger Princep, Mabel Rivera, Edgar Vivar, Geraldine Chaplin, Monserrat Carulla. (R, 100 min., subtitled)

At the risk of ticking off producer Guillermo Del Toro, the Spanish shocker *The Orphanage* is no *Devil's Backbone*. It's hardly spineless, but neither is it on par with several of the other scary movies from which it borrows heavily, either in tone or tale, chief among them *The Omen*, Alejandro Amenábar's *The Others*, Mario Bava's *Kill, Baby … Kill!*, and at least a deuce of Dario Argento *gialli*. It has neo-Gothic style to spare and a dense, suffocating atmosphere. It strives mightily to have a heart in the midst of all the miasmatic, ghostly goings-on. Bayona and his cast pull out all the stops, and for a while, you're immersed in the increasingly creepy story of married couple Laura (Rueda) and Carlos (Cayo) and their adopted son, Simón (Princep). Sergio Sánchez's lyrical, occasionally poetic script is played out in a tragic key that feels far too minor, and ultimately the composition comes off as both overplayed and underdone. *(12/28/2007)* *– Marc Savlov*
★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Dobie, Metropolitan

THE PIRATES WHO DON'T DO ANYTHING: A VEGGIETALES MOVIE

D: Mike Nawrocki; with the voices of Mike Nawrocki, Phil Vischer, Cam Clarke, Laura Gerow. (G, 85 min.)

Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of … V8? That's what you get when you cross *VeggieTales* characters with a pirate yarn. I have to say that before now, I wasn't personally familiar with this popular series' animated, direct-to-video, faith-based, vegetable characters, and I also somehow missed their 2002 big-screen debut, *Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie*. As



I wasn't expecting much, I must say that *Pirates* doesn't disappoint. Yet in spite of its flat, computer-generated animation and a G-rated joke-a-thon, *Pirates* is an understandable kiddie attraction. The action and patter is nonstop, and there's just enough message about the ability to overcome one's fears, laziness, and self-disparagement to make it suitable for the young 'uns without insulting their intelligence. Those unfamiliar with the characters, however, may find their absence of appendages alarming. They hop everywhere because they have no feet, and their lack of arms makes their sword-brandishing a surreal sight. *(01/18/2008)* *– Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Round Rock, Tinseltown North

THE SAVAGES

D: Tamara Jenkins; with Laura Linney, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Philip Bosco, Peter Friedman, Gbenga Akinnagbe. (R, 113 min.)

Don't pay any attention to the synopsis of this film. It'll make it sound like something for non-masochists to sidestep, and nothing could be further from the truth of this smart, funny, thoughtful, and exquisitely realized film. Jenkins' movie is a deft blend of realism and playful touches of structural whimsy and Brechtian distancing. Jon (Hoffman) and Wendy (Linney) are the grown and distant children of Lenny Savage (Bosco), who is showing the first signs of senile dementia. The subtlety of the interplay between siblings is one of the joys of *The Savages*. The film is likely to play differently to people of different age groups, maybe even sexes. To what extent one identifies with, recognizes, and fears each of the characters may govern the viewer's disposition toward the subject matter. Younger viewers may have to wait awhile before they're able to locate their inner Savage. *(12/28/2007)* *– Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★★ Arbor

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

D: Tim Burton; with Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, Timothy Spall, Sacha Baron Cohen, Jamie Campbell Bower, Laura Michelle Kelly, Jayne Wisener. (R, 117 min.)

Like some religious fanatic, Sweeney Todd (Depp) plays the same note over and over again: "Revenge, revenge, revenge," he crows. Watching Burton's adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's 1979 stage musical, I was struck by just how dull violent retribution can be when it's all someone ever talks (or, in this case, sings) about. Burton's gorgeously grim film (his sixth with Depp) is loyal to Sondheim's original, both in spirit and structure; it's dark and Gothic and drenched in blood, and it forgoes excessive dialogue in the name of getting quickly to the next murky, malevolent, yet strangely forgettable tune. Poor Depp, though, isn't up to the challenge of a musical. So by the time he gets that long-wished-for shot at restitution, I didn't care anymore if he succeeded or not so long as he stopped singing about it. By that point I'd already decided life would be better inside a quiet meat pie. *(12/21/2007)* *– Josh Rosenblatt*
★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Tinseltown South

TEETH

D: Mitchell Lichtenstein; with Jess Weixler, Hale Appleman, Vivienne Benesch, Lenny von Dohlen, John Hensley. (R, 87 min.)

Teeth explodes the dual myths of sexual freedom and freedom from sex while making castration anxiety and teen-female empowerment fun – or at least *weird* – again. Weixler embodies abstemious good-girl Dawn with just the right amount of repressed naivete to make things semibelievable when she discovers, to her horror, that her naughty bits are bitey. She's the living embodiment of the *vagina dentata* (literally, "toothed vagina") myth, and as such her incipient lust-crush over new-geek-at-school Appleman leads from blue lagoon to black and beyond. As an ultradark comedy, *Teeth* is all over the tonal map, veering from surrealistic ABC *After School Special*-ness to crimson-drenched Grand Guignol atrocity exhibitionism, often in the same scene. In any other film I'd say that was a flaw, or at the very least the sign of a conflicted script or muddled directorial viewpoint, but *Teeth*'s whirling moral compass actually provides the perfect metaphor for the teenage sexual urge in postpubescent overdrive. *(01/25/2008)* *– Marc Savlov*
★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Tinseltown South

✪ THERE WILL BE BLOOD

D: Paul Thomas Anderson; with Daniel Day-Lewis, Paul Dano, Kevin J. O'Connor, Ciarán Hinds, Dillon Freasier. (R, 158 min.)

Opening at the dawn of the 20th century, this film epic is a compelling portrait of capitalism gone mad and the collective shams we hold on to as truths. Anderson's saga is one that rivals films like *Giant* and *Citizen Kane* in our popular lore as stories about how we came to be the people we are. Ambition and greed drive the ascent of Daniel Plainview (Day-Lewis in, hands down, the most gripping film performance of the year), a gold-prospector-turned-wildcatter-turned-oil-tycoon. Anderson, the director of such culture-rattling films as *Boogie Nights* and *Magnolia*, here tones down his signature visual and narrative flamboyance in favor of a more classically composed story while leaving intact the trenchant omniscience of his storytelling. The film also tackles America's reliance on faith and the gnarled intersection between pragmatism and belief. At its most forthright, however, *There Will Be Blood* is a rich character study of a fascinating individual who is by turns likable, loathsome, admirable, monstrous, and driven. *(01/18/2008)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★★½ Alamo Ritz, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Southpark Meadows, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

27 DRESSES

D: Anne Fletcher; with Katherine Heigl, James Marsden, Edward Burns, Judy Greer, Malin Akerman, Melora Hardin. (PG-13, 107 min.)

Those 27 dresses mark the time Jane (Heigl) has spent, as one character puts it, in the taffeta ghetto of bridesmaidery. When Jane's boss and secret object of her affection (Burns, forever toady) falls in love with her sister (Akerman), Jane is stuck planning their wedding while simultaneously dodging the dogged attentions of Kevin (Marsden), a cynical journalist covering the wedding beat. Heigl anchors the film with a spazz-tastic charm, but the real star-making turn here belongs to Marsden, as a mixed-drink of frat boy and existential downer (or is it tall drink of water?). The jokes only hit about half the time – the best bits have an off-the-cuff feel – and the film is pocked with the kind of rom-com clichés that are practically written in stone, including the well-worn, improbable group sing-along – albeit this one, hinging on Elton John-inspired malapropisms, is pretty cute, and what validation to know others have mistaken Bennie's electric boots for electric boobs. *(01/18/2008)* – *Kimberley Jones*
★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

UNTRACEABLE

D: Gregory Hoblit; with Diane Lane, Billy Burke, Colin Hanks, Joseph Cross. (R, 100 min.)

Untraceable strives to gussy up its narrative cheat sheet (stolen from the still-warm bodies of *Saw*, *Se7en*, and *Feardotcom*, among others) with an outraged tone, but the blatant, transparent hypocrisy inherent in the story is what's really annoying. The always-reliable Lane is cast as FBI Cyber Crimes Agent Jennifer Marsh, who's tipped off to the existence of a live-streaming site called KillWithMe.com that allows visitors to participate virtually in a real-time execution: The more people log on to the site, the faster the victim dies. Apart from the fact that mankind has always been fascinated with voyeurism, *Untraceable* renders the audience complicit in the film's violent shenanigans by virtue of watching the gore onscreen. It's a weird, schizophrenic tack for a film about a deranged serial killer to take, and it leaves you feeling as if you'd just been scolded for going to the movies in the first place. *(01/25/2008)* – *Marc Savlov*
★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP

D: Jay Russell; with Alex Etel, Emily Watson, Ben Chaplin, David Morrissey, Priyanka Xi, Marshall Napier, Brian Cox. (PG, 111 min.)

A family film in the best sense, *Water Horse* plays like a cross between a World War II-era *Boy's Own* adventure and *Baby: Secret of the Lost Legend*, minus the soppy treacle of the latter but with just the right amount of RAF fighter flybys to qualify it as a rather ripping yarn, indeed. Set on the coast of Scotland, the ingratiatingly plucky Etel plays Angus, a young dreamer whose mother and sister tend to Lord Something or Other's sprawling country estate, while he skitters around the tide pools digging up neat stuff. The discovery of a barnacle-encrusted egg reveals the titular "water horse," aka the Loch Ness beastie, and coincides with the arrival of a pair of dueling surrogate father figures for Angus. With its *Shrek*y ears and newborn, puggy snufflings, the water horse is extremely – and unthreateningly, to younger members – well designed, via CGI and more tactile effects work. Despite the title, however, this is Etel's film all the way. *(12/21/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★★ Hill Country Galleria, Tinseltown South

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Special Screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.

THURSDAY 31

***Blood Car* (2007)** *D: Alex Orr; with Mike Brune, Anna Chlumsky, Katie Rowlett, Matt Hutchinson. (NR, 75 min.)* **Austin Film Festival.** In this dark comedy, Archie's wheatgrass-powered car decides it likes the color red better than green when it decides its alternative fuel of choice is blood. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm; $4, AFF members free.

***The Digital Prophet* (1995)** *D: Christopher Romero; with Blake Bahner, Jeffrey Combs, Annie Biggs.* **Tromatic Thursday.** A pair of detectives track an Internet killer. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

***Lost* (2007) TV @ the Alamo.** Free, but advance reservations suggested. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 8pm; @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 9pm.

***Without Warning* (1980)** *D: Greydon Clark; with Jack Palance, Martin Landau, Cameron Mitchell, David Caruso. (NR, 89 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** Or: *Alien vs. Hillbillies*. From the director of cult fave *Satan's Cheerleaders*. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

SPACES

***Eagle vs Shark* (2007)** *D: Taika Waititi; with Jemaine Clement, Loren Horsley, Brian Sergent, Craig Hall, Rachel House, Cohen Holloway, Joel Tobeck, Morag Hills. (R, 88 min.)* *Flight of the Conchords*' Clement stars in this Kiwi romantic comedy for misfits. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm; free.

FRIDAY 01

***The Breakfast Club* (1985)** *D: John Hughes; with Emilio Estevez, Judd Nelson, Molly Ringwald, Anthony Michael Hall, Ally Sheedy, Paul Gleason. (R, 97 min.)* **Master Pancake Theater.** Watch as the Master Pancake cutups fire more spitballs at this John Hughes teen classic than juvenile delinquents in study hall. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm, 12mid.

SATURDAY 02

***The Breakfast Club* (1985)** @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm. (See Fri., 2/1.)

***The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975)** *D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.)* Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for 31 years straight. For more info, see **www.austinrocky.org**. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

MONDAY 04

***L'Atalante* (1934)** See p.82

***Dirt Road to Psychedelia* (2007)** See p.82

***Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles* TV at the Alamo.** @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 9:45pm.

***There Will Be Blood* With Co-Star Russell Harvard (2007)** *D: Paul Thomas Anderson; with Daniel Day-Lewis. (R, 158 min.)* Russell Harvard, an Austin local and deaf actor, plays the grownup H.W. Plainview, the story's son who becomes deaf after an incident involving one of his father's oil wells. Harvard will be in attendance for a Q&A following these special subtitled screenings for the deaf and hearing-impaired community. @Alamo Ritz, 8:30pm.

SPACES

***Dark Night of the Soul* (1996)** *D: Prasanna Vithanage; with Swarna Mallawarachchi, Ravindra Randeniya, Yashoda Wimaladharma. (NR, 82 min.)* **Four Films by Prasanna Vithanage.** Sri Lankan filmmaker plots a contemporary story about moral lethargy. @MEZ B0.306 (on the UT campus), 7pm.

***Drop Dead Gorgeous* (1999)** *D: Michael Patrick Jann; with Kirstie Alley, Ellen Barkin, Kirsten Dunst, Denise Richards, Will Sasso, Allison Janney, Mindy Sterling, Sam McMurray, Mo Gaffney, Nora Dunn. (PG-13, 93 min.)* Free. (*) @Cafe Mundi, 8pm.

"The Heart of America Tour" (2004) *D: Dominic DeJoseph. (NR, 30 min.)* **Austin Africa Network.** Bono, Ashley Judd, and Chris Tucker toured the USA in December 2002 speaking about the AIDS crisis in Africa, a tour that fueled Bono's future charitable work. @Joe's Coffeehouse, 7pm; free.

TUESDAY 05

***El Bruto* (1953)** See p.84

Fat Tuesday Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 9:30pm.

SPACES

***Rushmore* (1998)** *D: Wes Anderson; with Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Olivia Williams, Mason Gamble, Seymour Cassel, Brian Cox, Sara Tanaka, Stephen McCole, Luke Wilson. (R, 93 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 06

***The Human Tornado* (1976)** *D: Cliff Roquemore; with Rudy Ray Moore, Gloria Delaney. (R, 85 min.)* **Weird Wednesday.** A sequel to *Dolemite*, again starring Moore as a blaxploitation hero who is a martial artist, nightclub entrepreneur, and mack daddy supreme. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

***There Will Be Blood* With Co-Star Russell Harvard (2007)** @Alamo Ritz, 8:30pm. (See Mon., 2/4.)

SPACES

***Shrek* (2001)** *D: Vicky Jenson and Andrew Adamson; with Vincent Cassel, John Lithgow, Cameron Diaz, Eddie Murphy, Mike Myers. (PG, 85 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 6:30pm.



THURSDAY 07

***Bugged* (1997)** *D: Ronald K. Armstrong; with Armstrong, Jeff Lee, Priscilla K. Basque. (PG-13, 90 min.)* **Tromatic Thursday.** Armstrong writes, directs, and stars in this low-budget horror film about killer crickets. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

***Lost* (2007)** @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 9pm, @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 8pm; free. (See Thu., 1/31.)

Love Bites: The Power Ballad Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 9:30pm.

***Welcome to Arrow Beach* (1974)** *D: Laurence Harvey; with Harvey, Joanna Pettet, Stuart Whitman, John Ireland, Meg Foster, Gloria LeRoy. (R, 85 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** A hippie girl wanders into a den of suburban cannibals in this movie directed by the Manchurian Candidate himself, Laurence Harvey. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

SPACES

***Mr. Woodcock* (2007)** *D: Craig Gillespie; with Billy Bob Thornton, Seann William Scott, Susan Sarandon, Amy Poehler, Ethan Suplee, Melissa Sagemiller, Jacob Davich. (PG-13, 87 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

***The Night Before the Exam* (2006)** *D: Fausto Brizzi; with Giorgio Faletti, Cristiana Capotondi, Nicolas Vaporidis, Sarah Maestri. (NR, 100 min.)* **Il Circolo Italiano.** This popular Italian comedy earned Brizzi a Donatello award as Best New Director. @MEZ B0.306 100 (basement of Mezes on the UT campus), 8pm; free.

FESTIVALS

Austin Jewish Film Festival The sixth annual festival offers an international selection of films, many of which will screen with the directors in attendance. Screenings continue through Friday at the Arbor. For a complete schedule and descriptions see **www.austinjff.org** and "Tradition in Transition," Jan. 25. (*) Continues Thu. (1/31) through Fri. @ Arbor.

IMAX Theatre

For ticket prices call 936-IMAX or 936-TSHM or see **www.thestoryoftexas.com**. See Showtimes for dates and times.

***African Adventure 3D: Safari in the Okavango* (2007)** *D: Ben Stassen. (NR, 40 min.)* Come face-to-face with hippos, crocodiles, elephants, lions, and many types of antelopes and bird species. *Closes Friday.* (*)

***Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure* (2007)** *D: Sean MacLeod Phillips; narrated by Liev Schreiber. (NR, 40 min.)* *National Geographic* uses photo-realistic, computer-generated, 3-D animation to transport audiences back to the late Cretaceous period more than 65 million years ago, when a great inland sea divided North America in two. (*)

***Texas: The Big Picture* (2003)** *D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.)* Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as Texas is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips.

***U2 3D* (2008)** *D: Mark Pellington and Catherine Owens. (G, 85 min.)* Filmed in Argentina during U2's Vertigo tour, *U2 3D* is a landmark film for its creative use of the medium. For once 3-D is being used not for wowwy effects and startling nature photography but in a way that complements and enhances the performance. It helps that U2 is equal to the magnitude of the 3-D format. On the IMAX screen, these Irish rockers really rattle and hum. (*)

***Wildfire: Feel the Heat* (1999)** *D: Mike Slee; narrated by Andre Braugher. (NR, 40 min.)* Crews put out *really big* fires around the world.

Offscreen

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' historic soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, and concerts/plays/performances featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen. **thomasallen@501studios.com**.

DV and HD Camera Basics *Thu., Feb. 7. 236-8877. $125 (nonmember), $95 (member).* **www.austinfilmschool.org**.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, and, lucky you, they've opened it up on a rental basis to the public, which means you can finally toss out that old Sony Watchman you've been thrusting in potential distributors' mugs for the past three years. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. They also have a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. *322-0145.* **www.austinstudios.org**.

Spring Classes From the Austin School of Film **Lighting for Film and Video Workshop** and **DV and HD Camera Basics Workshop** are coming up – and, hallelujah, they're being taught by **Spencer Parsons**. Register now; see the Austin Film School website for details and other upcoming classes available. **www.austinfilmschool.org**.

SXSW Volunteers Needed Wanna see what happens behind the scenes at the Music, Film, or Interactive Festivals; earn a chance to see shows; and generally be *involved* in the glory and the grime? Volunteer! Jobs range from festival production to conference activities including registration, information, trade show, technical support, and more. Day and night positions are available. Volunteers must be able to work a minimum of 30 hours or four nights during the event, depending on their crew type. Sign up today. See website for details. **www.sxsw.com/volunteer**.

TheFilmSchool Application Deadline *Thu., Jan. 31. 206/709-2555. $2,995 (scholarships are available).* **www.thefilmschool.com**.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Feb. 15 issue is Monday, Feb. 4**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): **specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com**; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): **calendar@austinchronicle.com**.

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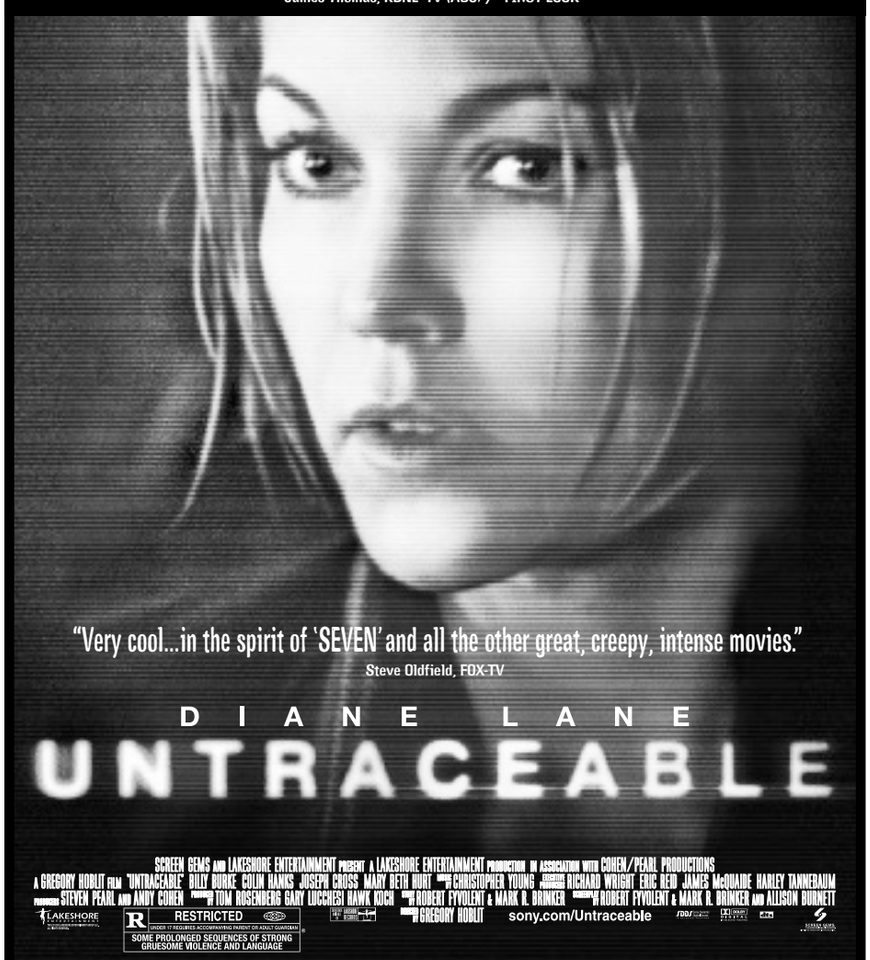
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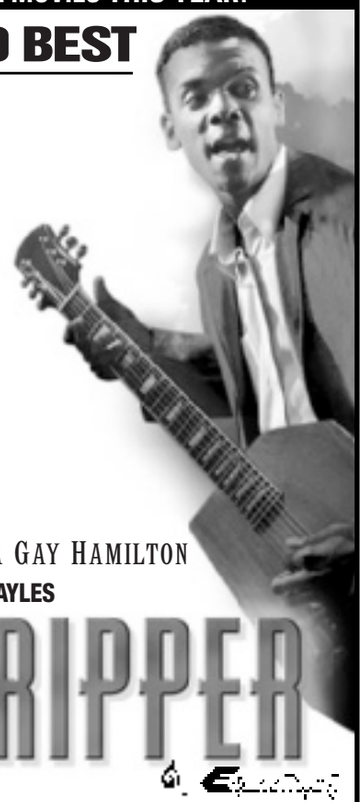
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music listings



Nina Nastasia MOHAWK, WEDNESDAY 6

Standing outside a Thai restaurant on a Chelsea street in her home city of New York, Nina Nastasia would rather talk about anything other than music. Through the phone, sirens wail, and a man wanders down the street cursing and shouting.

"Do you hear that?" Nastasia asks with almost embarrassed bewilderment. "It's so loud. This is what my apartment sounds like with all the windows closed. It's the loudest fucking city! It's insanity. I don't know why I live here anymore. I've lived here for about 16 years, and I've been bitching about leaving for about 14 years. I'm so sick of living in the city, but I can't seem to pick a place to live."

Nastasia's constant, clutching digressions as the city roars around her are an appropriate reflection of her songwriting. Since 2000 debut *Dogs*, Nastasia has mastered a quiet fury and hushed intensity, bred in intimate narratives and sparse arrangements that brood beneath the surface, threatening to erupt but held at bay by the powerful calm of her voice. 2006's *On Leaving* and last year's collaboration with Dirty Three drummer Jim White, *You Follow Me*, also revel in the tension of departing and settling, the latter registering the restlessness in White's percussive bursts.

"Anytime I think of leaving, it just seems like such a pain in the ass," she sighs. "I have so much stuff crammed in my apartment. I think stuff keeps me here now. And then my father died, and now he's in the storage facility with all his paintings, so it's got like 500 paintings and my dad and all of our stuff in the storage facility. So it's a huge decision, and now I have a cat. I don't know. It takes a lot. I'm kind of stuck here." *– Doug Freeman*

Denton's Tre Orsi and locals Silver Pines shine on first.

Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars

FLAMINGO CANTINA, FRIDAY 1



This amazing group formed while its members were living in a refugee camp during Sierra Leone's brutal civil war in the 1990s. Their acclaimed 2006 debut, *Living Like a Refugee* (Anti-), not only documents their extraordinary experience through song, but blends traditional West African rhythms and roots reggae. *– Jay Trachtenberg*

Dianne Scott's Birthday Bash

CONTINENTAL CLUB, SATURDAY 2

Conjuring Rosie Flores, Cindy Cashdollar, Mary Cutrufello, Kacy Crowley, LZ Love, Cella Blue, Shelley King, Rebecca Cannon, Jane Bond, Shelli Coe, and Kathleen Braun onstage all in one evening is quite the hat trick. Dianne Scott, the Continental Club's Queen of Everything, celebrates her natal day in style every year, but this distaff bill is another jewel in her crown. Benefits the SIMS Foundation and the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians. *– Margaret Moser*

Carnaval Brasileiro

PALMER EVENTS CENTER, SATURDAY 2

What started as an elixir for a small group of homesick Brazilian graduate students has exploded into one of Austin's longest-running and most infamous parties. New York-based Beleza Brazil (formerly Grupo Saveiro) and local samba school Acadêmicos da Ópera pound out rhythms for the parade of elaborately – and often scantily – costumed revelers. Throw on a headdress, grab the pasties, and let the fiesta begin! **www.carnavalaustin.com**. *– Thomas Fawcett*

Junior Reid

PARISH, SUNDAY 3



Junior Reid became a prominent name when he replaced Michael Rose as lead vocalist of Black Uhuru, but he's knocked out his fair share of dancehall hits, including "One Blood," which was sampled by Wu-Tang Clan. Not surprisingly, Reid has been making inroads in the hip-hop and R&B worlds, recently recording with Alicia Keys and Mims. Bay Area road warriors the Reggae Angels back Reid, and Andrew and Wada Blood open. *– Jay Trachtenberg*

The Go-Go's ANTONE'S, MONDAY 4

For a band that could have been relegated to the nostalgia circuit, the Go-Go's still shine. Sure, the set list is populated with enough 1980s hits – "Vacation," "Our Lips Are Sealed," "Head Over Heels" – to make you ponder wearing bubble skirts and breaking out the mousse, but the presence of openers Fastball puts a 1990s pop spin on the night. *– Margaret Moser*



Zoroaster EMO'S, TUESDAY 5

Atlanta trio Zoroaster is yet another peddler in the Dirty South metal surge of late. Feral psych sludge dominates last year's debut, *Dog Magic* (Terminal Doom), but they're one of the only metal acts in recent memory to incorporate both a Moog synthesizer and a theremin into the mix. It works. Fellow Southern boys Sourvein bring the North Carolina crunch, along with locals the Roller.

– Audra Schroeder

In-Stores

Tuesday: **Carolyn Wonderland**, Waterloo Records, 5pm

The Black, the Viet Minh, Shapes Have Fangs

CLUB DE VILLE, WEDNESDAY 6

Most bands start in a garage. These locals never left it. The Black headlines this 101X-sponsored show with blues and rockabilly twang, as heard on the trio's new, vinyl-only *Donna* EP. The Viet Minh drops out of the Black Angels and tunes into stripped-down psych that moans and drones. And while no one's exactly sure when the transformation took place, openers Shapes Have Fangs have evolved into a Kinks-y garage-pop powerhouse. Don't call it a revival. *– Austin Powell*

El Paso Hot Button

MOHAWK, THURSDAY 7



As perhaps Norman, Okla.'s only one-man band, Mickey Reece, aka El Paso Hot Button, knows a kick drum, crash cymbal, and heavy feedback has to go a long way. Last year's *When I Needed Sympathy* (Little Mafia) is a mix of soulful and bombastic, more polished than 2006's fractured *SSSnakes* LP, but live, EPHB brings the panic. Okies Gravity Propulsion System take out the thrash along with local punk trio Red X Red M. *– Audra Schroeder*

Soundcheck BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

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Scoot Inn and Bier Garten, Friday 1 & Saturday 2
The hot funk of NOLA's Hot 8 Brass Band may blow those socks off.

SUPER FURRY ANIMALS, HOLY FUCK
Emo's, Saturday 2
DayGlo Britpop meets Canadian electro-perversion outside. Inside, peep the Platforms' Groundhog Day party with the Yuppie Pricks and the Midgetmen.

GRUPO FANTASMA
Antone's, Saturday 2
Bringing the Latin heat back home, with Maneja Beto.

AIR SUPPLY
Riverbend Centre, Saturday 2
No doubt responsible for many conceptions in the 1980s.

EPHRAIM OWENS, BRANNEN TEMPLE, RED YOUNG
Lamberts, Sunday 3
Not feeling the pigskin? Local jazzists bowl you over.

BAND OF HORSES
La Zona Rosa, Sunday 3
So sold out.

CHURCH OF THE FRIENDLY GHOST NIGHT
Salvage Vanguard Theater, Tuesday 5
Noise-prov trio the Plutonium Farmers blow speakers, with psych portal the Tommy Hall Schedule and Carlos Villarreal's ambient Quebron.

DANIEL FRANCIS DOYLE RECORD RELEASE
Emo's, Thursday 7
Local drummer skins it on vinyl, with Koji Kondo, YellowFever, and Awesome Cool Dudes.

TIL WE'RE BLUE OR DESTROY, THE CARROTS, MANY BIRTHDAYS
Antone's, Thursday 7
All-local sweet tooth.



THE UGLY BEATS ***Beerland, Friday 1***
Friday night dance party, ATX-style. DJs Mike Hooker and Beat Jake Garcia wax on, off.

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tue. feb 5 — **7:30pm**
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free show — **9pm**

wed. feb 6 — texas songwriter — **8:30pm**
CORY MORROW
specical guest ★???

feb 7 & 8 — OVER THE RHINE
specical guest ★ ABRA MOORE
thur.- **8:30pm** ★ fri.- **9pm**

sat. feb 9 — TROUT FISHIN' IN AMERICA
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wed. feb 13 — direct from the crossroads delta blues legend — **8pm**
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AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735, 2103 E.M. Franklin, 926-0043
AUSTIN'S PIZZA, 1817 S. Lamar, 795-8888
B.B. ROVERS, 12636 Research Ste. B-101, 335-9504
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5, 9505-B Stonelake, 795-9000
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER, 1008 Water, Bastrop, 512/321-7907
BEAUTY BAR, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943
BEERLAND, 711½ Red River, 479-ROCK (7625)
THE BELMONT, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300
BENNIGAN'S, 301 Barton Springs Rd., 472-7902
BLIND PIG PUB, 317 E. Sixth, 472-0809
BOAT HOUSE GRILL, 6812 RR 620 N., 249-5200
BOOMERZ, 6148 Hwy. 290 W., 892-3373
'BOUT TIME, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339
BOYD VANCE THEATRE AT CARVER, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926
BROKEN SPOKE, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189
THE BROWN BAR, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330
CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515
CAFE CAFFEINE, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473
CAFE MUNDI, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634
THE CANARY ROOST, 11900 Metric, 836-6360
CAROUSEL LOUNGE, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790
CARVER CULTURAL CENTER, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926
CEDAR STREET, 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH, 4477 S. Lamar, 899-4300
CHAIN DRIVE, 504 Willow, 480-9017
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE, 119 Cheatham, San Marcos, 512/353-3777
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666
CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR, 2200 Manor Rd., 472-9900
CLUB 973, 104 W. Carrie, Manor, 512/350-8724
CLUB DE VILLE, 900 Red River, 457-0900
CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444
COPA BAR & GRILL, 217 Congress, 479-5002
COTTON CLUB, 212 E. Davilla, Granger, 512/859-0700
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE, 606 E. Seventh, 480-5988
CUBA LIBRE, 409 Colorado, 472-2822
DETOUR BAR & GRILL, 1113 RR 620 N., 266-2279
DIRTY DOG BAR, 909 S. Second, 236-9800
DONN'S DEPOT, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE, 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860
EGO'S, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091
EL SOL Y LA LUNA, 1224 S. Congress, 444-7770
ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279
ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979
EMO'S, 603 Red River, 477-3667
EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie #110, 282-2586
FADÒ, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172
FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE, 4600 Guadalupe, 380-0097
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646
FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193
FURR'S FAMILY DINING, 4015 S. Lamar, 441-7825
GIDDY UPS, 12010 Manchaca, 280-4732
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813
GREEN PASTURES, 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4747
GRUENE HALL, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077
GÜERO'S TACO BAR, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688
HANOVER'S, 108 E. Main, Pflugerville, 512/670-9617
HEADHUNTERS, 720 Red River, 236-0188
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE, 617 Congress, 476-0473
HILL'S CAFE, 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300
HOLE IN THE WALL, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL, 1779 Wells Branch #114, 251-5554
JO'S COFFEE, 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800
JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825
LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290, 459-8729
LA ZONA ROSA, 612 W. Fourth, 472-2293
LAMBERTS, 401 W. Second, 494-1500
LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889
LBJ HIGH SCHOOL, 7309 Lazy Creek Dr.
THE LOADING DOCK, 708 S. Austin St., Georgetown, 512/864-2100
LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR, 629 W. Ben White, 444-9329
LOUIE'S 106, 106 E. Sixth, 476-1997
LUCKY LOUNGE, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE, 141 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, 512/558-7399
MAGGIE MAE'S, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541
MANUEL'S, 310 Congress, 472-7555
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261
MEOW, 618 W. Sixth, 472-2037
MERCURY HALL, 615 Cardinal, 236-1226
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL, 14106 N. I-35
MOHAWK, 912 Red River, 482-8404
MOMO'S, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848
MOONRIVER, 2002 N. Pace Bend Rd., Spicewood, 512/264-2064
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 477-2900
MULLIGAN'S, 900 RR 620 S., 263-3305
NASTY'S, 606 Maiden, 453-4349
NORTH BY NORTHWEST, 10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969
NUEVO LEON, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097
NUNO'S ON SIXTH, 422 E. Sixth, 833-5133
NUTTY BROWN CAFE, 12225 Hwy. 290 W., 301-4648
THE OAKS, 10206 FM 973 N., 278-8788
THE OASIS, 6550 Comanche Trail, 266-2442
ONE WORLD THEATRE, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 330-9500
OPAL DIVINE'S, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308
PALMER EVENTS CENTER, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4500
THE PARISH, 214 E. Sixth, 479-0474
THE PARLOR, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965
PARMER LANE TAVERN, 2121 Parmer #1, 339-0663
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020
PLUSH, 617 Red River, 478-0099
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318
QUACK'S MAPLEWOOD BAKERY, 1400 E. 38½, 538-1991
RABBIT'S LOUNGE, 1816 E. Sixth, 473-3771
RACK DADDY'S, 4410 E. Riverside, 389-1577
RAIN ON 4TH, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE, 13450 Research, 335-5115
RED 7, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100
RED EYED FLY, 715 Red River, 474-1084
RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120
RENAISSANCE HOTEL, 9721 Arboretum, 343-2626
RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132
RIVERBEND CENTRE, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 327-9416
ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder, Round Rock, 512/218-0813
THE ROCK ROOM, 101 E. Main, Round Rock, 512/244-5450
ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN, 701 Main, Georgetown, 512/868-1300
ROMEO'S, 1500 Barton Springs Rd., 476-1090
ROOM 710, 710 Red River, 476-0997
RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637
SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886
SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 282-0083
SATELLITE CAFE, 7101 Hwy. 71 W. Ste. E-1, 301-1883
SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552
SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200
SHAKESPEARE'S PUB, 314 E. Sixth, 472-1666
SHENANIGANS, 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL, 9012 Research Ste. C-1, 380-9443
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060
SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017
ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 606 W. 15th, 476-6757
STUBB'S, 801 Red River, 480-8341
T.C.'S LOUNGE, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200
TARRYTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 2601 Exposition, 472-3111
TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300
THINGS CELTIC, 1806 W. 35th, 472-2358
THE THIRSTY NICKEL, 325 E. Sixth, 473-8891
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304
TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary, San Marcos, 512/396-2236
TRIUMPH CAFE, 3808 Spicewood Springs Rd., 343-1875
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2203 San Antonio St., 476-5321
VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 902-5057
THE WATER TANK, 7309 McNeil, 331-9831
THE WATER-HOLE SALOON, 5244 Hwy. 71 E., Del Valle, 512/247-5119
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 6203 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 418-9700
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
WATERLOO RECORDS, 600-A N. Lamar, 474-2500
WHOLE FOODS MARKET, 601 N. Lamar, 476-1206
Y BAR & GRILL, 7720 Hwy. 71 W., 394-0220
Z'TEJAS, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355

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UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY
ART BY MICHAEL NORRIS
THURSDAY • 10PM
PARIS '49
FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY • 10PM
MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO
MONDAY • 10PM
CRY BEAR
TUESDAY • 10:30PM
EPHRAIM OWENS
WEDNESDAY • 10PM
TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZ

The Continental Club

MON FEB 4
HAPPY HOUR PARIS '49

THURS JAN 31
HAPPY HOUR ELANA JAMES

DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS 10PM

TUESDAY FEB 5
FAT TUESDAY WITH Toni Price 6:30PM

12AM BLACK JOE LEWIS AND THE HONEYBEARS

BARFIELD 10PM
TYRANT OF TX FUNK

DAVID GARZA 10:30PM

WEDNESDAY FEB 6
H. H. SHOTGUN PARTY
JAMES McMURTRY 12AM

FRIDAY FEB 1
HAPPY HOUR THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS

JON DEE GRAHAM 10PM

DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS 11:30PM

THURSDAY FEB 7
HAPPY HOUR ELANA JAMES
12AM JAMES BULLARD
TYRANT OF TX FUNK BARFIELD 10PM

THE WAYMORES 10PM

SATURDAY FEB 2
MATINEE 3-7PM
JAMES HAND HAPPY BDAY DIANNE!

CHIX ROCK! BENEFITS SIMS & HAAM
KACY CROWLEY • ROSIE FLORES
CINDY CASHDOLLAR • MARY CUTRUFELLO
REBECCA CANNON • SHELLEY KING
LZ LOVE • SHELLI COE • KATHLEEN BRAUN
CELLA BLUE • JANE BOND
CAROLYN WONDERLAND

FRIDAY FEB 8
H. H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS
12:15M LI'L CAP'N TRAVIS
11PM BROTHERS AND Sisters

SUNDAY FEB 3
10PM HEYBALE

SATURDAY FEB 9
MATINEE 3-7PM REDD VOLKAERT
12AM DAX RIGGS
10PM DUSTIN WELCH AND THE HOUSE BAND

COMING SOON 2/14 WHITE GHOST SHIVERS 2/15 DEVIL DOLL/GRADY 2/16 JAMES HAND

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THURSDAY JANUARY 31 / $5
MUCH LOVE 11:45
11 FINGERED CHARLIE 10
MANDO SAENZ CD RELEASE PARTY 9
DANNY FAST FINGERS
CD RELEASE PARTY 8
GREEN MOUNTAIN GRASS 6:30

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 1 / $8
LANGUAGE ROOM 12:15
STEPHEN CLARKE BAND 11
DERTYBIRD 10
WILL EVANS 8:30
JOE KOENIG 7
TYLER JORDAN FREE HAPPY HR 5:45

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2 / $15
JAMES McMURTRY 11
TICKETS ON SALE AT WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
DEDRINGERS 9:30
DUSTIN WELCH 8

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 3 / $5
WARREN HOOD
& THE HOODLUMS 9:30-12 every Sunday
MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND 8
MICHAEL DART 6:30

MONDAY FEBRUARY 4 / $5
DARRELL PHILLIPS 10:30
BLUEPRINT REBELLION 9:15
JEFF PLANKENHORN 8
JON NAPIER 7

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 5 / $5
DANA FALCONBERRY 10:45
AMY COOK 9:30
LA TAMPIQUENA 8
LOST PINES 7
LUKE LEVERETT NO COVER HAPPY HR 6

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6
IDGY VAUGHN 12:15 $5
DREW SMITH 11 $5
DAN DYER $8 9:30
SUZANNA CHOFFEL 8 $8
STINGRAYS HAPPY HR 6-7:30

Saxon Pub
1320 S Lamar www.thesaxonpub.com 448-2552

CAROLYN WONDERLAND 8:00
GEORGE DEVORE 10:15 $8
UNCLE LUCIUS 12:30 $5
No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 with the Fabs
THURSDAY JAN. 31

JAMES HAND 8:00 $10
JEFF PLANKENHORN 12:00 $10
KENNETH BRIAN 10:30 $10
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 every Friday with The REGULARS
FRIDAY FEB. 1

carolyn 11:00 $10
wonderland
Rob Roy Parnell 8:00 $10
SATURDAY FEB. 2

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY
No Cover & Happy Hour Drink Specials All Day
Barbecue & Bloody Mary Buffet
Big Screen HDTV, Doors open at Noon
SUNDAY FEB. 3

BOB SCHNEIDER'S LONELYLAND 8:30 $10
MATT THE ELECTRICIAN 7:00 $10
Amy Atchley 11:00 $5
LeeAnn Atherton 12:30 $5
MONDAY FEB. 4

LARRY LANGE & THE LONELY KNIGHTS 8:00 $5
10:00 MISS LESLIE & HER JUKE-JOINTERS
12:00 ANDREA MARIE & MAGNOLIA BAND
6:00 No Cover Happy Hour Julieann Banks
TUESDAY FEB. 5

monte montgomery 10:00 $10
PAULA NELSON 8:00 $5
MEAGAN TUBB 12:00 $5
No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 with BO PORTER
WEDNESDAY FEB. 6

Coming soon to the Saxon Pub:
FEB 8 - VALLEJO
FEB 15 - VAN WILKS, OMAR & THE HOWLERS
www.thesaxonpub.com

TOM PETTY
and the HEARTBREAKERS
ON TOUR
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STEVE WINWOOD



ON SALE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4 AT 10AM!

AUGUST 26

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ticketmaster CHARGE BY PHONE: 512-494-1800

All dates, acts and ticket prices subject to change without notice. A service charge is added to each ticket.

Presented by LIVE NATION

club listings

Thu 31

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)
311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)
ANTONE'S Del Castillo (7:30)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Ruby Jane Smith
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Homer Henderson (9:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Wynn Taylor, Trent Turner
BEAUTY BAR Ian Orth, Total Vengeance
BEERLAND Grand Champeen Anniversary Show
THE BELMONT Dysfunkshun Junkshun (8:00), Jack Roe Combo (9:00)
BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegal (7:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Ben Burgess
BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton
THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau
CACTUS CAFE Belleville Outfit CD Release (8:30)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Bee vs. Moth
CEDAR STREET Kent Mayhew, Radiostar (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Homer Henderson (6:30)
CHAIN DRIVE The Hot as Shits, Nicky Click
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris 49 (10:00); In the Club: Elana James, Barfield, Black Joe Lewis & the Honey Bears (6:30)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)
COTTON CLUB Texas All-Stars (8:30)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S No Show Ponies, 2 Hoots & a Holler
ELEPHANT ROOM Paul White Quintet (9:30)
EMO'S Cry Blood Apache, Rings, White Williams
EVANGELINE CAFE Craig Toungate
FLAMINGO CANTINA Rooster & the Kid, the Spores, Ccanopyy, HMS Foolhardy

Acts are chronologically listed. Schedules are subject to change, so please call clubs to confirm lineup. Times are given where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND ARE PRINTED ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.

HELLO, CLUBS AND BANDS: Club listings deadline is Monday, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Send venue name, address, phone number, acts, and times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax 458-6910; phone 454-5766 x159; or e-mail **clubs@austinchronicle.com**.

roadshows

JANUARY

THU 31

Total Vengeance, Beauty Bar
Nicky Click, Chain Drive
White Williams, **Rings**, Emo's
The Spores, Flamingo Cantina
The Bangles, La Zona Rosa
Matt Wilson, Meow
Dog Men Poets, Merkaba Lounge & Grill
Velvet Revolver, Stubb's
Sassy Goose, Trophy's

FEBRUARY

FRI 1

Suplecs, Elysium
Dead Twins, **Bedouin Soundclash**, **Beat Union**, Emo's
Sierra Leone Refugee All-Stars, Flamingo Cantina
MOAI, the Hideout Coffeehouse
Butcher Slim, Hole in the Wall
Matt Wilson, Meow
Big Soy, Mohawk
LA Dies, **Warm Winter**, the Parlor
Avenue Rockers, **P.W.I.**, Red 7
Hot 8 Brass Band, Scoot Inn and Bier Garten
Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band, Stubb's
A Corpse Vanishes, Triple Crown

SAT 2

Bird Peterson, Beauty Bar
Pickled Punks, Beerland
Jenny Reynolds, Cactus Cafe
Noah Earle, Clementine Coffee Bar
West Coast Pinups, Continental Club
Super Furry Animals, **Holy Fuck**, Emo's
Johnny Danger Flamingo Cantina
Jerry Jeff Walker, One World Theatre
Beleza Brazil, Palmer Events Center
Air Supply, Riverbend Centre
Hot 8 Brass Band, Scoot Inn and Bier Garten
Angels & Airwaves, **Meg & Dia**, **the Color Fred**, **Ace Enders**, Stubb's
Moist Boys, Trophy's

SUN 3

Richard Bowden, Flipnotics Coffeespace
Band of Horses, La Zona Rosa
Junior Reid, the Parish

MON 4

The Go-Go's, Antone's
Dougie MacLean, Cactus Cafe
Foxy Shazam, **Karate High School**, Red 7

TUE 5

AJ Roach, Cactus Cafe
Toni Price, Continental Club
The Bravery, **Your Vegas**, **Switches**, Emo's
Zoroaster, **Sourvein**, Emo's
Alisa Weilerstein, One World Theatre
Hell Within, **Ashes of Your Enemy**, Red 7

WED 6

The Governors, Beauty Bar
Golden Triangle, Beerland
Focus Group, Emo's
Walt Wilkins, Mercury Hall
Nina Nastasia, **Tre Orsi**, Mohawk

THU 7

Over the Rhine, Cactus Cafe
Koji Kondo, **Seth Sherman**, Emo's
Zenith Fuzzbomb, **the Brains**, Flamingo Cantina
Bob Cheevers, Gruene Hall
El Paso Hot Button, **Gravity Propulsion System**, Mohawk
Mikal Evans, **Stickman**, Trophy's

for your benefit

See **austinchronicle.com** *for complete listings.*

THU 31

Ron Paul Liberty Ball w/ the Story Of, Golden Bear, **Ruta Maya**

FRI 01

Handsome Joel Foundation Benefit w/ Brewtality Inc., Dixie Witch, Suplecs, **Elysium**

SAT 02

SIMS, HAAM Benefit w/ Jane Bond, Kathleen Braun, West Coast Pinups w/ Cella Blue, Kacy Crowley, LZ Love & Lightning Red, Shelli Coe, Rosie Flores & Cindy Cashdollar, Texas Sapphires, Shelley King, Mary Cutrufello, **Continental Club**
Groundwork Music Orchestra Hour/Raffle, **Ruta Maya**

MON 04

KOOP Radio Benefit w/ DJ Ian Orth, Cocker Spaniels, Peachcake, **Beauty Bar**

WED 06

Caritas Benefit w/Shotgun Party, **Continental Club**

THU 07

Austin Music Foundation w/ Tungsten Coil, Lucid Dementia, gfire, SubNatural, **Elysium**

WALLER CREEK AMPHITHEATER

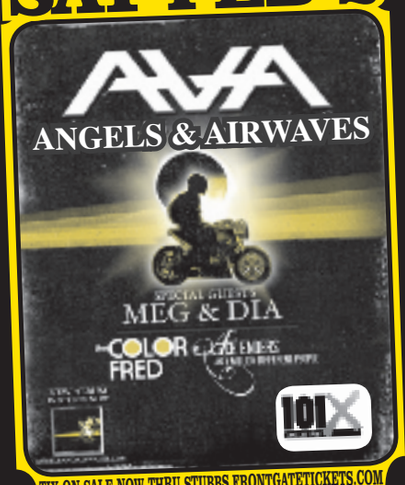
★ BAR-B-Q COLD BEER LIVE MUSIC ★
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THU JAN 31



TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SAT FEB 2



TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

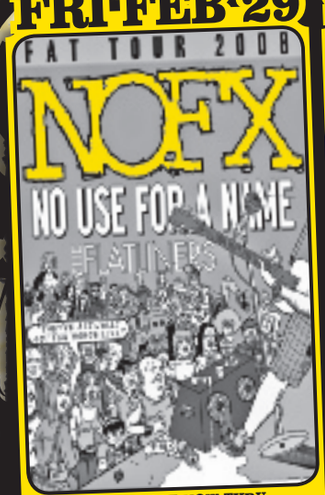
SAT FEB 23



WITH TRISTAN PRETTYMAN

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FRI FEB 29



TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SAT MAR 1



TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SUN MAR 2



WITH MEAT PUPPETS AND HELVETIA

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

MON MAR 3



TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

WED MAR 5



with Oppenheimer

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRI MAR 7



WITH BID G AND EVERYBODY OUT

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

MON MAR 17



TIX ON SALE FRIDAY 2/1 @ 10AM THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SAT MAR 29



WITH TIM FITE

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

IN THE CLUB

THU JAN 31 — 10:30PM
ADAM RAVEN
WITH GRAHAM WILKINSON AND THE UNDERGROUND TOWNSHIP AND THE SNAFU KITTIES
INDOORS AFTER VELVET REVOLVER

FRI FEB 1
LIVE OAK DECLINE
INDOORS AFTER FLOGGING MOLLY
FREE WITH FLOGGING MOLLY TIX

SAT FEB 2 — 11:30PM
THE BOXING LESSON
WITH THE MERCERS
INDOORS AFTER ANGELS & AIRWAVES
FREE WITH ANGELS & AIRWAVES TIX

SUN FEB 3
GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH THE BELLS OF JOY

FRI FEB 8
KEVIN DEVINE
WITH THE NEW FRONTIERS AND JEALOUS GIRLFRIENDS

SAT FEB 9
ALPHAREV
WITH SOLDIERTHREAD JETSUNDERFIRE AND AARON CUADRA

SUN FEB 10
BADFISH
A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME
WITH SCOTTY DON'T AND FULL SERVICE

WED FEB 13
HOMEGROWN 101X PRESENTS
HATCHETWORK
WITH PREY FOR SLEEP
CD RELEASE PARTY AND **REND**

THU FEB 14 — 2 SHOWS!
VALENTINE'S DAY WITH
KITTY KITTY BANG BANG



LOVEBIRDS DINNER @ 6:30PM
SINGLES SOIRÉE @ 10PM
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

for private events call 444-2001 **Tickets Available at Stubb's & stubbs.frontgatetickets.com**

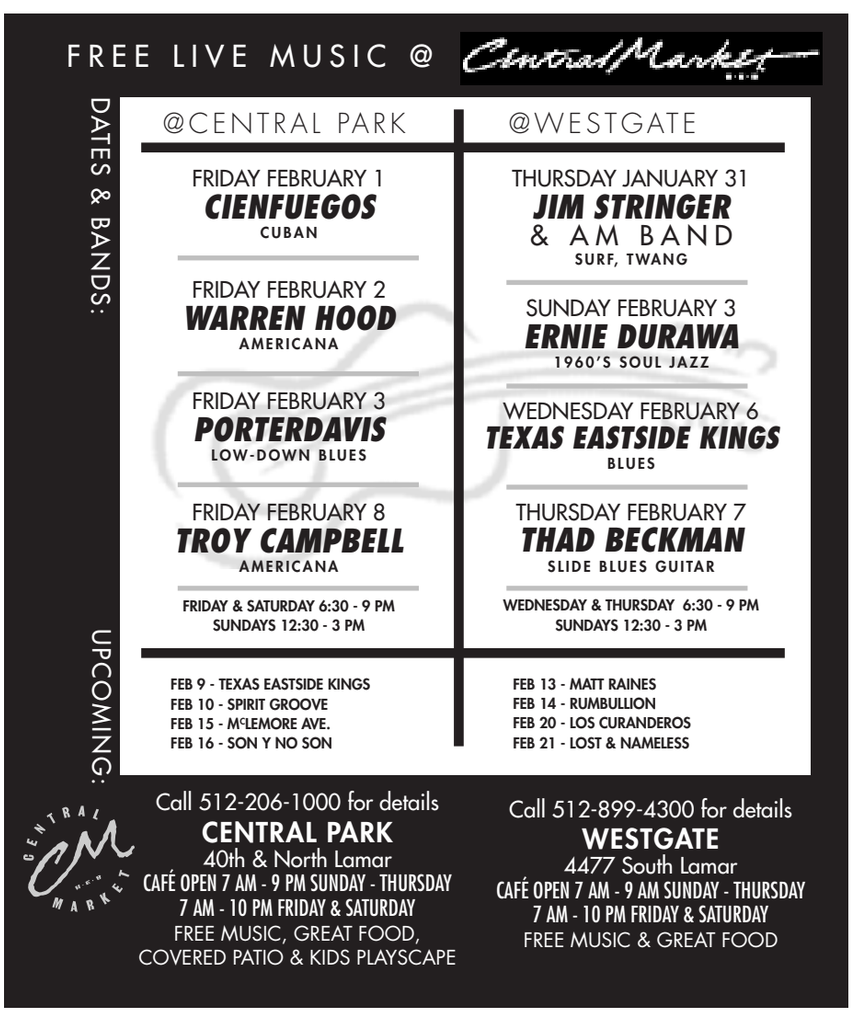


club listings ◂◂ FROM THURSDAY

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician (8:00)
GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Roy & Ted (8:30)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (9:00)
GRUENE HALL McKay Bros. (6:00)
HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Evan Felts (8:00)
HILL'S CAFE Andrea Marie & Magnolia (7:30)
HOLE IN THE WALL Greg Izor & Willie Pipkin, Spoiled Royals (10:00)
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
LA ZONA ROSA Tammany Hall Machine, the Bangles
LAMBERTS Glover Tango (6:30), Topaz (10:30)
THE LOADING DOCK Open Mic (7:00)
LOUIE'S 106 Mac Bynum (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Bernie Calcote (6:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Ian Lee, Falcon Buddies, Alpha Rev
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)
MEOW Matt Wilson (9:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Trés, Dog Men Poets
MOHAWK The Tunnels, Toko-Ri Get High, the Steps
MOMO'S Danny Fast Fingers CD Release, Much Love, 11-Fingered Charlie (8:00)
NORTH BY NORTHWEST Jim Bryant
THE OAKS Sharon & Lew Andre Mathews, George Enslé (7:00)
OPAL DIVINE'S Attic: Green Mountain Grass (9:00)
THE PARISH The Mercers, Sunset, the Drawing Board
THE PARLOR The Late Joys
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Weldon Henson (8:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Stop the Truck
RED 7 Bangladesh, Remember This, Death Got Killed, Inner Vision, Dead by Knight
RED FEZ Twilight Broadcast, Weekend Warm-Up (8:30)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN John Deery
THE ROCK ROOM Karaoke w/ DJ Trip
ROOM 710 Jack Kill & Stickman, Deuce Coupe, Brass Knuckle Belt Buckle, Bridge Farmers, the Skeletons
RUTA MAYA Ron Paul Liberty Ball w/ the Story Of, Golden Bear (8:00)
SAXON PUB The Fabs, Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore, Uncle Lucius (6:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Wartime Social
SPEAKEASY JJ Usher (9:30)
STUBB'S Outside: Velvet Revolver; Inside Later: Graham Wilkinson, Adam Raven, Snafu Kitties
T.C.'S LOUNGE Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Brandon Raines & Carson Alexander
THE THIRSTY NICKEL David Swaitek
TRIPLE CROWN Nathan Hamilton, Destroying Infinity, Bloodshot Pyramid
TROPHY'S Sedium, Sassy Goose, CockVanDyke
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Conspirare w/ Craig Hella Johnson (8:00)
WHOLE FOODS MARKET Latin at Heart (6:00)
Z'TEJAS Lucky Strikes (6:00)

Fri 01

311 CLUB Soul Kitchen, Joe Valentine
ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Mike Clifford (3:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Los Texas Wranglers (3:30)
ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/ AUSTIN CITY LIMITS Randy Weeks (1:00)
ANTONE'S Dirty Wormz (10:00)
ANTONIO'S TEX-MEX CAFE & CANTINA Candiland (8:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE John Russell & the Tone Rangers
B.B. ROVERS Dixie Beal & the Group W Bench (7:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Venson & Lee
BEAUTY BAR Prince Klassen, Single Frame, Ume, Many Birthdays
BEERLAND The Ugly Beats
THE BELMONT Bustamoovalators (9:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega
BOAT HOUSE GRILL Hosea Hargrove
BOOMERZ LED
'BOUT TIME DJ Element
BOYD VANCE THEATRE AT CARVER Black History Month Celebration w/ the Huston-Tillotson Choir, Campbell Elementary School Choir (10:30am)
BROKEN SPOKE Gary P. Nunn
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole



APHRODITE'S

AN UNINHIBITED NIGHT CLUB FOR ADVENTUROUS COUPLES

Curious? This is your weekend. See our booth at

KLBJ Pleasure Fest - Feb. 1

This Friday, La Zona Rosa, start 7:00 PM

This Saturday - Feb. 2, OPEN HOUSE

Open, 9 PM - 'til, no cover charges, no membership fees

Couples and single women only, please.

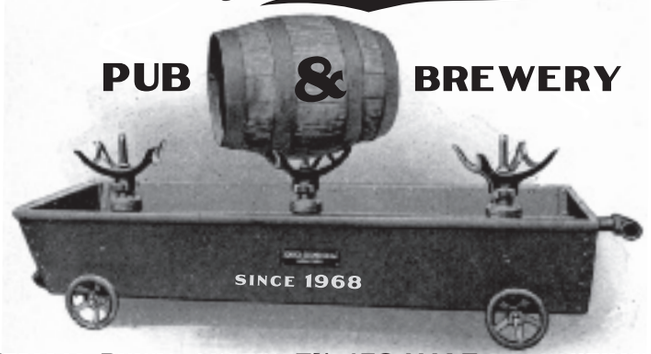
Feb. 9 - Mardi Gras Celebration / Feb.15 - Valentine Dance

www.aphroditesforum.com D.J. - B.Y.O.B. - 928-9876



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THURSDAY JAN 31

EARLY SHOW!

DEL CASTILLO

DOORS 6:30 • SHOW 7:30 • ON SALE NOW!

THIS SATURDAY FEB 02

ON SALE NOW!

GRUPO FANTASMA

W/ MANEJA BETO

diRTy WORMz

with MY FAREWELL • SET AFLAME

HOUSE OF ID • CROOKED KILLAHZ

FRIDAY FEB 1ST

FREE SHOW!!!

DOORS 9 • SHOW 10

MONDAY FEB 04

THE GO-GO'S

WITH FASTBALL

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FEB 05: Blue Tuesday

AUSTIN BLUES SOCIETY'S

BLUES JAM (7-10)

LATER: BLUE TUESDAY BAND FEAT.

DEREK & MALFORD

WEDNESDAY FEB 6

ERIC TESSMER BAND

JOSH ALLEN & THE MICKEY BROS

THURSDAY FEB 07

SUREFIRE MEDIA PRESENTS

MANY BIRTHDAYS • THE CARROTS

TIL WE'RE BLUE OR DESTROY

FRIDAY FEB 08

BOB SCHNEIDER

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SUNDAY FEB 10

BRUCE SMITH & FRIENDS

DOORS 9 • SHOW 10

MONDAY FEB 11

T-BIRD & THE BREAKS

THURSDAY FEB 14

MEALS ON WHEELS BENEFIT

SHOT THROUGH THE HEART BALL! WITH

SKYROCKET

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& MYSTERIOUS WAYS • ON SALE NOW!

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FRI 22 FEB — SUREFIRE MEDIA PRESENTS: MISER • THE WARTIME SOCIAL • DAWN OVER ZERO • DREMNT THE END

SAT 23 FEB — GARY CLARK JR — ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

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THU 28 FEB — BLACK JOE LEWIS — THE BEST LOVE IN TOWN — BANKRUPT & THE BORROWERS

THURSDAY MAR 20 — BOB MOULD BAND — ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

WEDNESDAY MAR 26 — THE GUTTER TWINS — GREG DULLI & MARK LANEGAN — with GREAT NORTHERN — ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY APR 19 — BLIND MELON — ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

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SATURDAY FEB 16

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THE SCABS

DOORS 10:30

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FRI, FEB 1 — GARY P. NUNN

SAT, FEB 2 — BRUCE ROBISON

TUE, FEB 5 — PRIVATE DANCEHALL WITH ALVIN CROW

WED, FEB 6 — LUCKY TOMBLIN 8PM — TONY HARRISON 6-8PM NO COVER

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Mon 02/04 — Lee Duffy & Friends — 08:00pm — Inside Show, No Cover

Tues 02/05 — Stephen Doster, Will Sexton, Bill Carter — 08:00pm — Inside Show, No Cover

Coming Soon:

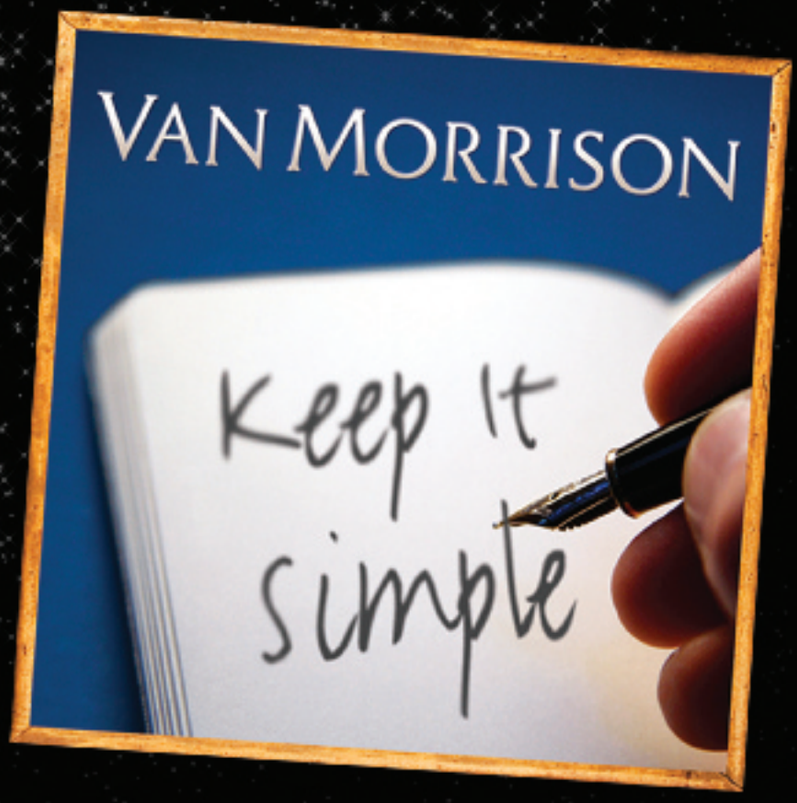
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MARCH 11 '08

club listings ◂◂ FROM FRIDAY

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Mike & the Moonpies (7:30), Mad Cowboys (9:00)
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Cienfuegos (6:30)
CLUB DE VILLE Gary Newcomb Trio, Tiny Adventurers
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio; In the Club: the Blues Specialists (6:30), the Waymores, Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)
COTTON CLUB Just Add Water (8:30)
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE DJ Orion
DETOUR BAR & GRILL Andy Macintyre & the Primal Groove (9:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Lucky Strikes (8:00)
EGO'S Nakia & His Southern Cousins, Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends, the Gunhands
ELEPHANT ROOM Tony Airoldi & the Lounge Gypsies, Kat Edmonson
ELYSIUM Handsome Joel Foundation Benefit w/ Brewtality Inc., Dixie Witch, Suplecs
EMO'S Inside: Beat Union, Westbound Train, Bedouin Soundclash; Lounge: Dead Twins, Magnet School, Summer Wardrobe
EVANGELINE CAFE Larry Lange & His Lonely Knights (10:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Sierra Leone Refugee All-Stars (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Alex Henley, Venus Is Falling (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Hilary York, Soul Kitchen (9:00)
FURR'S FAMILY DINING Carlton Lombard (6:00)
GIDDY UPS Steph & the Henhouse Watchmen
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jason Arnold & the Stepsiders (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Bonnie Bishop, Robert Earl Keen (8:00)
HANOVER'S Long Way Home, Brewer Nation (7:30)
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE MOAI (11:30)
HILL'S CAFE Shad Blair (7:30)
HOLE IN THE WALL Butcher Slim, Sheboygan, Ricky Stein *Chrontourage event* (10:00)
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JOVITA'S Jodi Adair, Victoria & Zeta, Teddy Long (6:30)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LAMBERTS Nick Curran & the Attitudes (10:30)
LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR Zak Perry Band
LOUIE'S 106 Mac Bynum (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Cellus & the Loose Grip
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Courage Machine, Mira Loma (9:00)
MAGGIE MAE'S Jack Johnson CD Release *Chrontourage event* (6:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)
MEOW Matt Wilson (9:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Alpha Rev
MOHAWK Big Soy, Attack Formation, the Black, AM Syndicate
MOMO'S Tyler Jordan, Joe Koenig, Will Evans Project, Dertybird, Stephen Clarke, Language Room

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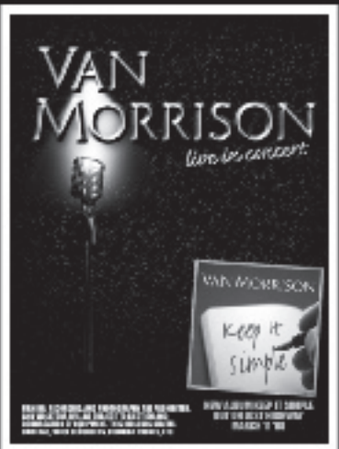
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FRI FEB 29 tix on sale now



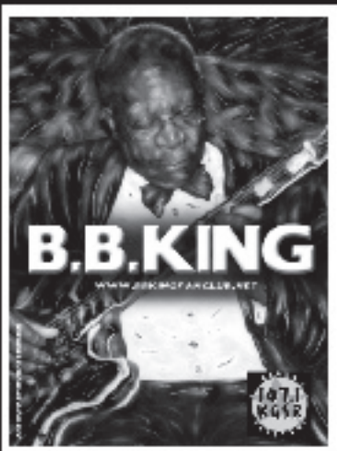
SAT MAR 1 tix on sale now



TUE MAR 11 tix on sale sat. 2/2 at 10 am!



FRI MAR 21 tix on sale now

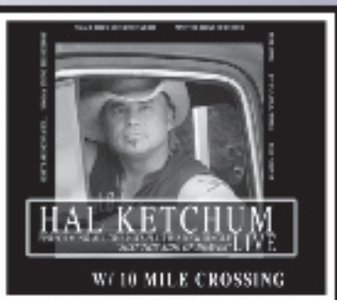


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THURSDAY, JANUARY 31



WHITE WILLIAMS
RINGS • CRY BLOOD APACHE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

INSIDE: BEDOWN SOUNDCLASH
WESTBOUND TRAIN
BEAT UNION

LOUNGE: SUMMER WARDROBE
MAGNET SCHOOL • DEAD TWINS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

OUTSIDE:



SUPER FURRY ANIMALS
HOLY FUCK
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

LOUNGE:
LUNATIC FRINGE BURLESQUE PRESENTS:
LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULEZ!
A NEW ORLEANS STYLE MUSICAL
MARDI GRAS BURLESQUE EXTRAVAGANZA!

INSIDE: PLATFORMS' 1ST ANNUAL
GROUNDHOG DAY PARTY
THE YUPPIE PRICKS
THE MIDGETMEN • DJ HOOKER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

OUTSIDE,
DOORS @ 6PM:
101X PRESENTS



THE BRAVERY
SWITCHES
YOUR VEGAS • ELECTRIC TOUCH
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
INSIDE: ZOROASTER • SOUR VEIN • THE ROLLER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

INSIDE: {{{SUNSET}}}
THE DRAWING BOARD • FOCUS GROUP
LITTLE GENTLEMAN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

LOUNGE: SERVICE INDUSTRY SPECIALS:
SOUL DJ RUFUS • DJ BUTCHER BEAR
INSIDE: DANIEL FRANCIS DOYLE
(CD RELEASE)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

INSIDE: UME
HAUNTING OBOE MUSIC
CAMP X-RAY • PRAYER FOR ANIMALS

LOUNGE: ZYKOS • ZOOKEEPER
ALEX DUPREE AND THE TRAPDOOR BAND
FRANK SMITH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

INSIDE: GREG LEWIS & RYAN ROONEY'S
BIRTHDAY PARTY:
THE JUNGLE ROCKERS
MR. LEWIS & THE FUNERAL 5 • KANKO
REVEREND • GLASS EYE

ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

OUTSIDE: DEAD MEADOW
& BLACK MOUNTAIN • BLOOD ON THE WALL
INSIDE: THE VIETMINH
RINGO DEATHSTARR • STRANGE ATTRACTORS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

GIRL IN A COMA
ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS • THE SWEETHEARTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

INSIDE: SHERWOOD • THE MATCHES
THE HIGHER • WE SHOT THE MOON
LOUNGE: TOTAL ABUSE
MOTION TURNS IT ON • CRY BLOOD APACHE
STOVE BLOW • MUTATING MELTDOWN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

OUTSIDE: DOORS @ 8PM



THE METEORS
KAT KILLERS
13TH VICTIM • PICKLED PUNKS

COMING SOON:

THURSDAY, MARCH 6



HOT 93.3 PRESENTS:
BONE THUGS N HARMONY
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

101X PRESENTS:



WHAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS
CD RELEASE PARTY
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

LOUIS XIV

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

OUTSIDE:



TICKETS ONSALE FEB 2

COMING SOON: • 2/16 METEORS • 2/22 COBRA STARSHIP W/METRO STATION, WE THE KINGS AND THE CAB • 2/23 AIDEN • 2/23 BLACK LIPS, WHITE DENIM AND THE STRANGE BOYS (OUT, ON SALE NOW) • 2/26 FAIR TO MIDLAND W/DANCE GAVIN DANCE AND DR MANHATTAN (IN, ON SALE NOW) • 3/4 THE BLACK SWANS • 3/7 BEACH HOUSE, PAPERCUTS (LOUNGE, ON SALE NOW) • 3/8 SILVERSTEIN, THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA • 3/17 ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE (IN, ON SALE NOW) • 3/27 THE DIRTBOMBS, KELLEY STOLTZ, BLACK JOE LEWIS (IN, ON SALE NOW) • 4/1 ANTI FLAG/STREET DOGS (TICKETS AVAILABLE) • 4/4 RJD2 (OUT, ON SALE NOW) • 4/5 CASIOTONE FOR THE PAINFULLY ALONE, CLUE TO KALO (IN) • 4/27 CARIBOU, FUCK BUTTONS (OUT, ON SALE NOW) • 4/30 BONDE DO ROLE, DEATH SET (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 5/15-5/18 CHAOS IN TEJAS • 5/17 NEW BOMB TURKS, QUADRAJETS • 5/23 CLINIC (OUT, ON SALE NOW)

*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT www.emosaustin.com, waterloo records, end of an ear records, & sound on sound records

NORTH BY NORTHWEST The Newz
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce Newman's Nutty Idol Karaoke
THE OAKS Shotgun Party, the Shake 'em Ups, Leo Rondeau (8:00)
THE PARLOR Basic, Warm Winter, LA Dies
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Tejana Dames (8:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Tombstone Bullies, South Austin Jug Band
QUACK'S MAPLEWOOD BAKERY Country Willie & the Cosmic Debris, Space Invader Orchestra, Rubber Robot, Attic Ted (7:00)
RABBIT'S LOUNGE Moving Blues (9:00)
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RED 7 Slowly Truth Dies, P.W.I., Avenue Rockers, Exile, 13th Victim
RED FEZ Bruce James, DJ Inverse (8:00)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield
ROOM 710 Izzy Cox, Corinne Rose, Black Jesus, Turbo 350
RUTA MAYA Paul Green School of Rock Music (7:00), World Carnaval w/ McCallum Steel Drum Band, Seu Jacinto, Academicos da Opera, O Positivo (9:00)
SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), James Hand, Kenneth Brian, Jeff Plankenhorn (8:00)
SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN Mardi Gras Sock Hop w/ Hot 8 Brass Band (8:00)
SHAKESPEARE'S PUB Whiskey Songs & Prison Songs
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Bo Porter & the Dixie Rockits (10:30)
ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Conspirare w/ Craig Hella Johnson (8:00)
STUBB'S Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band, Flogging Molly
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Robert Len Smith Trio
TRIPLE CROWN Eric Hisaw, A Corpse Vanishes, Dual Exhaust, the Belgraves
TROPHY'S Patrick Godbey, Chicken Shift, Grub Dog & the Modestos, CockVanDyke
THE WATER-HOLE SALOON Karaoke w/ Jonn

Sat 02

311 CLUB George Rarey, Joe Valentine
ANTONE'S Maneja Beto, Grupo Fantasma (9:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE CBTA w/ the Grass Onion
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Alan Haynes
BEAUTY BAR Bird Peterson, DJ NickNack
BEERLAND Pickled Punks, Flametrick Subs
THE BELMONT Cienfuegos (9:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega
BOAT HOUSE GRILL Gatling & Hoffpauir
BOOMERZ Wesley Cox
'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Bruce Robison
THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau
CACTUS CAFE Scrappy Jud Newcomb, Jenny Reynolds, Jimmy LaFave (9:00)
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

the Hole in the Wall

CELEBRATING 33 YEARS OF ROCKING AUSTIN

THURSDAY JAN 31
SPOILED ROYALS 11:30P
GREG IZOR & WILLIE PIPKIN 10P

FRIDAY FEB 1
SLOWTRAIN 12MID
SHEBOYGAN 11P
BUTCHER SLIM 10P

SATURDAY FEB 2
SUMMER WARDROBE 12MID
CATFISH HUNTERS 11P
NEAL MEHTA 10P

SUNDAY FEB 3
BENKO 12 MID
MISTRESS STEPHANIE AND HER MELODIC CAT 11P
RIPE 10P

MONDAY FEB 4
MONSTER SLEEPS QUIET 11P
THE GOSPEL TRUTH 10P

TUESDAY FEB 5
THE BREAD 10P
AUSTIN COMEDY TRAINWRECK 9P

WED FEB 6
GARY NEWCOMB TRIO 12:30A
LEO RONDEAU 11:30P
THE BEAUMONTS 10:30 P
MCMERCY FAMILY BAND 9:30P

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THU, JAN 31
TRES 6PM
THE SPIRIT OF MUSIC 9PM
DOG MEN POETS 10PM

FRI, FEB 1
DAVID LEE 6PM
JJ USHER 9PM
ALPHA REV 10PM

SAT, FEB 2
POKERPALOOZA 9AM

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$200 CASH PRIZE

TUE, FEB 5
PIANO BAR
$3 YOU CALL IT

WED, FEB 6
CAMERON ROAD 6PM
CALLING JACK BURTON
HE'S GONNA SAVE THE 80'S 10PM

THU, FEB 7
TRES 6PM
THE ARS SUPERNOVA 10PM
MOTHERS ANTHEM 11PM

SAT, FEB 9
TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER
4 & 7PM NO ENTRY FEE
$200 CASH PRIZE
UFC81: NO COVER

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Th 31 Nathan Hamilton 6pm
Bloodshot Pyramid, Destroying Infinity 10pm
Fr 1 Eric Hisaw 6pm
The Belgraves, Dual Exhaust, A Corpse Vanishes 9pm
Sa 2 FREE SHOW!!! - Word Association Presents: Chief (CD Release), Tee Double, SpyHop 10pm
Su 3 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm
Mo 4 Ricky Stein 6pm Doomsday Device 10pm
Tu 5 RG Stark 6pm
FAT TUESDAY!!!
San Marcos River Rat Brass Band 9pm
We 6 Scott Wood 6pm
Carlton Pride & ZION Reggae Music 9pm
Th 7 Scotty & the Metaphysics 6pm
Móchate - Salsa Night 9pm
Fr 8 Mark Jungers 6pm
Turbo 350, Chief Fuzzer 10pm
Sa 9 Green Mountain Grass, The Hudsons 10pm

club listings ◂◂ FROM SATURDAY

CARVER CULTURAL CENTER Black History Month Celebration w/ the Austin Children's Choir *Chrontourage event* (1:00)
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Warren Hood (6:30)
CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR Noah Earle
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:00); In the Club: James Hand (3:00), SIMS, HAAM Benefit w/ Jane Bond, Kathleen Braun, West Coast Pinups w/ Cella Blue, Kacy Crowley, LZ Love & Lightning Red, Shelli Coe, Rosie Flores & Cindy Cashdollar, Texas Sapphires, Shelley King, Mary Cutrufello (8:30)
COTTON CLUB Leighan Cortes (9:00)
DIRTY DOG BAR Fatback Circus
DONN'S DEPOT Nash Hernandez Orchestra
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (8:00)
EGO'S Perry Wing, No Show Ponies, Tahni Handel
ELEPHANT ROOM Flyjack (9:30)
ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void, the Gothfather (10:30)
EMO'S Holy Fuck, Super Furry Animals
EVANGELINE CAFE Sunset Valley Boys (3:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Crew 54, Cali Zack, Johnny Danger, Broke Bread
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Colin Gilmore, Soul Kitchen (9:00)
GIDDY UPS Glenn Collins
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Amber Digby (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Shawn Pittman (1:00), Bonnie Bishop, Robert Earl Keen (8:00)
HANOVER'S The Eggmen (10:00)
HILL'S CAFE Clay Jeffrey (7:30)
HOLE IN THE WALL Neil Mehta, Catfish Hunters, Summer Wardrobe (10:00)
JOVITA'S The Lovejoys CD Release, Ray Bonneville CD Release (5:00)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LAMBERTS Faceless Werewolves, the Hunnies, Poor People (10:30)
LBJ HIGH SCHOOL Dinner w/ LBJ Jazz Ensemble, LBJ Stage Band, LBJ Swing Band (7:00)
LOUIE'S 106 Mac Bynum (6:30)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Funkotron, Toast
MEOW Kenny Luna (9:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL UFC 81 (9:00)
MOMO'S Dustin Welch, Dedringers, James McMurtry
NORTH BY NORTHWEST Ernesto Marquez
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Zach Walther & the Cronkites
THE OAKS Lonesome Dave Fisher (8:00)
ONE WORLD THEATRE Jerry Jeff Walker (7:00, 9:30)
PALMER EVENTS CENTER Carnaval Brasileiro w/ Academicos da Opera, Beleza Brazil
THE PARLOR Bullshit Artists
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Jon Emery
PLUSH Table Manners Crew (10:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Shawn Nelson & the Ramblers
RED FEZ DJ Kurv (8:00)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
RIVERBEND CENTRE Air Supply w/ Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00)
ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN Kirk Hale (6:30)
ROOM 710 Invincible Czars, Brownstars, Laughin' Dogs, Blood of Patriots, Blunt Force Trauma
RUTA MAYA Groundwork Music Orchestra Benefit/Raffle (4:00), Paul Green School of Rock Music (7:00), Dirtfoot, Shotgun Party, McMercy Family Gospel Band (10:30)
SATELLITE CAFE Sheridan, Erik Hokkanen (8:00)
SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN Mardi Gras Sock Hop w/ Hot 8 Brass Band (8:00)
STUBB'S Outside: Ace Enders, the Color Fred, Meg & Dia, Angels & Airwaves; Inside Later: the Mercers, the Boxing Lesson
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Jeremy Miller
TRIPLE CROWN Spyhop, Tee Double, Chief, Word Association
TRIUMPH CAFE Brian MacLeod (7:00)
TROPHY'S Moist Boys, Crown Dregs, Chief Fuzzer, Enemy of Mankind
VICTORY GRILL Daniel Webb, Dans la Lune, the Story Of (9:00)

Sun 03

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Swing Kings
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tune Session (8:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian

AUSTIN DAZE PRESENTS RutaMaya WEEKENDS
THURS 1/31 FREE MUSIC HAPPY HOUR! PM MEAGAN TUBB & THE SHAPPY PEOPLE
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8:30 PM Greg Vendetti
MON 2/04 10 PM Dr. Funkdamental
11 PM NATURAL SOUL
12 AM Dimitris Ascent
TUESDAYS ARE OPEN MIKE - NO COVER!
TUE 2/05 6 PM Poetry Open Mic
9 PM Music Open Mic
8 PM Poetry Karaoke on Porch
WED 2/06 CUBAN DANCE NIGHT
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INSIDE FRI 1 FEB AM SYNDICATE
ATTACK FORMATION, THE BLACK, BIG SOY
INSIDE SAT 2 FEB CENTRAL BOOKING PRESENTS THE PARTY
INSIDE SUN 3 FEB THE BALCONY
GABE HASCALL
INSIDE TUE 5 FEB AUSTINIST'S INDIEROKE
NO COVER + HAPPY HOUR ALL NIGHT LONG!
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Specials-1st Prize Best Team Spirit! TUE 2/5 > SOBER DAZE WED 2/6 > NO SHOW PONIES, THE JUST

UPCOMING SHOWS >>> THU 2/7 - HIT BY CAR, THE DIRTY SOUND
FRI 2/8 - GHOST STORYS, THE FLAMING HELLCATS, UNDER THE GUN (TENT), SUBCULTURE SMASH PART 2!
SAT 2/9 - ROGERS PORN COLLECTION, SUNGLASSES & MUSHROOMS, DARTH YATO, BENNY VS THE BEAST
SUN 2/10 - TEENAGE REHAB, MIDDLE-CLASS TRASH

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UPCOMING SHOWS
02-14 LA GUNS FEATURING PHIL LEWIS & STEPHEN RILEY
02-15 THE AUSTIN MUSIC FOUNDATION PRESENTS LAMB
FEAT. THE DRUMMER FROM FOR REVENGE, SPLIT BRAIN
VELVET BRICK, EAT THE SUN, BARRY WHITEGRAVE
02-16 THE AUGUST VALENTINE, SCRAPS OF LIFE, DEAD HAVEN
02-22 THE SKINNY, HEARTBREAK IN ACTION

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Brewtality, Inc. 11:00PM www.myspace.com/brewtalityinc
Pure Luck 10:00PM
Heart & Soul Sound System 9:00PM www.myspace.com/heartsoulsoundsystem
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Tuesday • Feb. 5 90'S NIGHT
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Wednesday • Feb. 6 MID-WAVE
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Sat 2/2	Kill The Client, Disfigured P.L.F., Subterranean Fecal Root Scattered Remains
Sun 2/3	Metal Mobster Band Battle and Super Bowl Party Potluck!
Mon 2/4	Foxy Shazam Karate High School, Peachcake Earth Eater
Tue 2/5	Early Show (8pm-10pm): Retard-o-Bot Late Show (10pm): Hell Within Fire From the Gods, The Cabaret Ashes of Your Enemy

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SAT 2/2 THE EGGMEN (BEATLES TRIBUTE BAND) 10PM
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Sat 2/2 Catch A Dream
Tue 2/5 Will Dunlap
Wed 2/6 Ptarmigan
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club listings ◂◂ FROM SUNDAY

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Porterdavis (12:30)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Ernie Durawa (12:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:00); In the Club: Heybale! (8:00)
COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
EGO'S Atomic Honky Tonk, Mallory Valentine, Horse Operas, Robert Banta
ELEPHANT ROOM About: Blank (9:30)
ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Andrea Marie & Magnolia (8:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Sally Allen, Bukka Allen, Richard Bowden (8:00)
FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (4:00)
GREEN PASTURES Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Austin Sketch Group (1:30)
HOLE IN THE WALL Ripe, Mistress Stephanie & Her Melodic Cat, Benko (10:00)
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JOVITA'S Gina Chavez (6:30)
LA ZONA ROSA Band of Horses
LAMBERTS Ephraim Owens, Brannen Temple, Red Young (10:30)
LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR Ted Hall's Blues Church & Jam (8:30)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Mic Jonez, Quickwidit (9:00)
MANUEL'S Tony Campise, David Webb (11:30am)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers (12:30)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL DJ Tetsuo (9:00)
MOMO'S Marshall Ford Swing Band, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums
NUEVO LEON Mariachi Relampago (1:00)
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Ray McCarty, Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites (8:30)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)
THE OASIS The Brew
THE PARISH Junior Reid
THE PARLOR Fat Man & Little Boy: The Atomic Duo
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Nathan's Train Stage Jammers (3:00)
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RAIN ON 4TH Hedda Layne (6:00)
RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen
ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield
RUTA MAYA Wynn Taylor & the Working Poor, Greg Vendetti (7:30)
SAXON PUB The Resentments, Graham Wilkinson, the Salingers
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D
ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Conspirare w/ Craig Hella Johnson (2:30)
TARRYTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Go for Baroque (3:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Michelle
THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song Session (2:30)
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Brunch w/ the Durdens (11:00am)
TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra

Mon 04

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Julieann Banks (3:30)
ANTONE'S Fastball, the Go-Go's (9:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Walter Higgs & the Shuffle Pigs
BEAUTY BAR KOOP Radio Benefit w/ Ian Orth, Cocker Spaniels, Peachcake
BLIND PIG PUB Ben Burgess, Upstairs: Aaron Navarro
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams
CACTUS CAFE Dougie MacLean (8:30)
CAFE CAFFEINE Primal Space (7:00), Open Mic Poetry (8:00)
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Rich Demarco (6:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Crybear (10:00), In the Club: Paris 49, Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (6:30)
DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
EGO'S Wes Nickson, Open Stage w/ Robert Banta
ELEPHANT ROOM Three Jazz Collective, Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (6:00)
EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh, Kevin Gallaugher, Greg Anderson
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)
HOLE IN THE WALL The Gospel Truth, Monster Sleeps Quiet (10:00)
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
LA PALAPA Baby Dallas
LOUIE'S 106 Mac Bynum (6:30)
MOMO'S Jon Napier, Blueprint Rebellion, Darrell Phillips, Jeff Plankenhorn
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson & Joley Flowers
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Ray McCarty, Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites (8:30)
THE PARLOR Trainwreck Washington
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie
RABBIT'S LOUNGE Blue Monday w/ Willie Sampson (8:00)
RED 7 Earth Eater, Peachcake, Karate High School, Foxy Shazam
RED FEZ DJ Jeff Jupiter (10:00)
ROOM 710 Heart & Soul Sound System (8:00)
RUTA MAYA Dr. Funkdamental, Natural Soul (10:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Breck's Stormy Open Blues Jam (8:30)
SAXON PUB Matt the Electrician, Bob Schneider, Amy Atchley, Leeann Atherton
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Brent Wood
SPEAKEASY Jonathan Terrell
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Lee Duffy, Joe Manuel, Warren Hood, Floyd Domino, Marvin Dykhuis (8:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Ricky Stein, Doomsday Device

Tue 05

311 CLUB D-Madness, Joe Valentine (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Jean Synodinos (3:30)
ANTONE'S Austin Blues Society (7:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)
B.B. ROVERS Buster Gutbucket, Cory Linn, Amanda Pearcy (7:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)
BEAUTY BAR Fatback Circus
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega
BROKEN SPOKE Hardcore Country w/ Alvin Crow & James M. White
CACTUS CAFE AJ Roach, Honeydew Revue (8:30)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Coffee Sergeants, the Transitions
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ephraim Owens Experience (10:00); In the Club: Toni Price, Alejandro Escovedo, David Garza (6:30)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)
EGO'S Full Stride, Ricky Broussard
ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (6:00), Tony Campise (9:30)
ELYSIUM 90's Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus
EMO'S Inside: Sourvein, the Roller, Zoroaster, Outside: Switches, Your Vegas, Electric Touch, the Bravery
EVANGELINE CAFE Cindy Cashdollar, Charles Thibodeaux, Ponty Bone & the Squeezetones
FLAMINGO CANTINA Dubkids, Mr. Brown, Austin Nights Brass Band
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Nueva Cosa (8:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roots Day w/ T. Jarrod Bonta (9:00)
GRUENE HALL John Arthur Martinez (6:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)
HANOVER'S Kevin Havron (8:30)
HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice
HOLE IN THE WALL Comedy Trainwreck (9:00)
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JOVITA'S The Flyin' A's (7:30)
LOUIE'S 106 Mac Bynum (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Matthew Wright
MEOW Kenny Luna (9:00)
MOMO'S Lost Pines, La Tampiquena, Amy Cook, Dana Falconberry
ONE WORLD THEATRE Alisa Weilerstein (6:00, 8:30)
THE PARLOR Walabama, Mutating Meltdowns, the Strands, Wallmart
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos
RED 7 Retard-O-Bot, Ashes of Your Enemy, Fire From the Gods, the Cabaret, Hell Within
RED FEZ Bruce James Quartet, Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)
RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)
SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER Church of the Friendly Ghost Night w/ Quebron, Tommy Hall Schedule, Plutonium Farmers (8:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon & the Heatherns (9:00)
SAXON PUB Larry Lange & His Lonely Knights, Texas Sapphires, Andrea Marie & Magnolia
SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN Hilary York, Aimee Bobruk (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae

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club listings ◂◂ FROM TUESDAY

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Stephen Doster, Will Sexton, Bill Carter (8:00)
TRIPLE CROWN R.G. Stark, River Rat Brass Band
TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis
WATERLOO RECORDS Carolyn Wonderland (5:00)

Wed 06

219 WEST Breezy (7:00)
ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Barry Sell (3:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Jerry Sires (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET Lauren Gurgiolo (1:00)
ANTONE'S Eric Tessmer, Josh Allen & the Whiskey Bros. (9:00)
APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL Marty Linville
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland (7:30)
AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Hosea Hargrove & the Roadrunners
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5 Singer-Songwriter Open Mic w/ Jimi Lee
BEAUTY BAR The Governors
BEERLAND Golden Triangle, Static Static, Black Panda
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega; Upstairs: Curtis Grimes
BROKEN SPOKE Lucky Tomblin
CACTUS CAFE Cory Morrow (8:30)
CEDAR STREET John Pointer, the Spazmatics (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Texas Eastside Kings (6:30)
CHAIN DRIVE Militant Babies, Super House, Hao Chaing Chaing (10:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Jacinta (7:00)
CLUB 973 Karaoke w/ the Bigg Sho (8:30)
CLUB DE VILLE Early: Bill Davis, Shane Bartell; Later: Shapes Have Fangs, Viet Minh, the Black (6:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Trube, Farrell & Sniz (10:00); In the Club: Shotgun Party Caritas Benefit, Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry (6:30)
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Kill the DJ, Smash-Ups, Robot, DJ Alib, Ghettotech w/ DJ Orion (9:30)
CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Albert & Gage
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)
EGO'S Bourland
ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), ATX Big Band (9:30)
ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister
EMO'S Little Gentlemen, Focus Group, the Drawing Board, Sunset
EVANGELINE CAFE Cowboy Johnson
FLAMINGO CANTINA Bob Marley Birthday w/ Mau Mau Chaplains
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Michael Fracasso Piano Hour, Nathan Hamilton (6:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Jude Ross (8:00)
GIDDY UPS Open Blues Jam w/ JJ Slyde, Jackie Newhouse (7:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Zach Walther & the Cronkites (6:00)
HANOVER'S Open Mic w/ Carson Alexander
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Experiment in Troubadourism w/ Jenny Elder (7:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL McMercy Family Gospel Band, the Beaumonts, Leo Rondeau, Lonesome Heroes (9:30)
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JOVITA'S Bocastria, Cerronato (6:00)
LAMBERTS Erik Hokkanen & His Gypsy Tribe (6:30), DJ Honeycomb (10:30)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
LOUIE'S 106 Red Young (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Meridianwest (10:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem (9:00)
MAGGIE MAE'S Patrick Fleming (10:00)
MEOW Kenny Luna (9:00)
MERCURY HALL Walt Wilkins (8:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Cameron Road
MOHAWK Tre Orsi, Nina Nastasia
MOMO'S Stingrays, Idgy Vaughn, Suzanna Choffel, Drew Smith, Dan Dyer
MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)
THE PARLOR Astronaut Suit, Alexander's Dark Band
PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Fond Kiser (8:00)
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
RED FEZ Atash (9:00)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D.
RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)
SAXON PUB Bo Porter, Paula Nelson, Monte Montgomery, Meagan Tubb
SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN Austin Poetry Slam (7:00)
SPEAKEASY Salsa Lessons, O Positivo (9:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Scott Wood, Carlton Pride & Zion
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan (7:00)
Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Songwriter Night (6:30)
Z'TEJAS Stephen Doster, Will Sexton & Bill Carter

Thu 07

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)
311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)
ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR Bruce Jones (3:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Tribal Nation (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET Amy Atchley (12:30)
ANTONE'S Til We're Blue or Destroy, Many Birthdays, the Carrots
ARTZ RIB HOUSE George Enslé
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Homer Henderson (9:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Stephanie Bradley
BEAUTY BAR The Tunnels, Ume, Ringo Deathstarr
BEERLAND Tenlons Fort
THE BELMONT Dysfunkshun Junkshun (8:00)
BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegal (7:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Ben Burgess
BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton
THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau
CACTUS CAFE Abra Moore, Over the Rhine (8:30)
CEDAR STREET Kent Mayhew, Radiostar (6:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris 49 (10:00); In the Club: Elana James, Barfield, James Bullard (6:30)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)
COTTON CLUB Texas All-Stars (8:30)
DONN'S DEPOT The Flyin' A's
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S Robert Banta, the Gunhands, Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends
ELEPHANT ROOM Mark Rubin's Ridgetop Syncopators, John Fedcock & Butch Miles
ELYSIUM Austin Music Foundation w/ Tungsten Coil, Lucid Dementia, gfire, SubNatural (8:00)
EMO'S Seth Sherman, Awesome Cool Dudes, Yellow Fever, Koji Kondo, Daniel Francis Doyle
EVANGELINE CAFE Liz Morphis
FLAMINGO CANTINA Guerillas of Lilliput, the Brains, Zenith Fuzzbomb, Rage Against the Doo
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician (8:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Bob Cheevers (6:00)
HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Brian Kremer (9:15)
HOLE IN THE WALL The Lennings, Sally Crewe & the Sudden Moves (10:00)
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
LAMBERTS Seth Walker (6:30), Becca Garcia (10:30)
THE LOADING DOCK Open Mic (7:00)
LOUIE'S 106 Mac Bynum (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00), Mike Maven & the Goodlife (10:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Charger Fits, the Effects, Ludo
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)
MEOW Kenny Luna (9:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Trés (6:00)
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MOMO'S Nathan Hubble, Nathan Singleton, James Bullard, Uncle Lucius, 11-Fingered Charlie
OPAL DIVINE'S Attic: Catfish Hunters (9:00)
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THE PARLOR Pretty, Pretty; Bad People
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Stop the Truck
RED 7 Teri Joyce & the Tagalongs, Streetlight Suzy, Sunglasses & Mushrooms, Head Panic, Bass Line Bums
RED EYED FLY Doug Morrison
RED FEZ Twilight Broadcast, Weekend Warm-Up (8:30)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
SAXON PUB Candiland, Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.
T.C.'S LOUNGE Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Scotty & the Metaphysics, Mochate
TROPHY'S Stickman, Jack Kill, the Dialtones, Mikal Evans, Abby Birds, The Dialtones, Mikal Evans
VICTORY GRILL Word/Jazz Low Stars (8:00)
Z'TEJAS Señor Gato (6:00)

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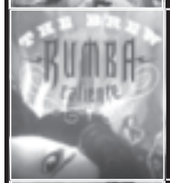
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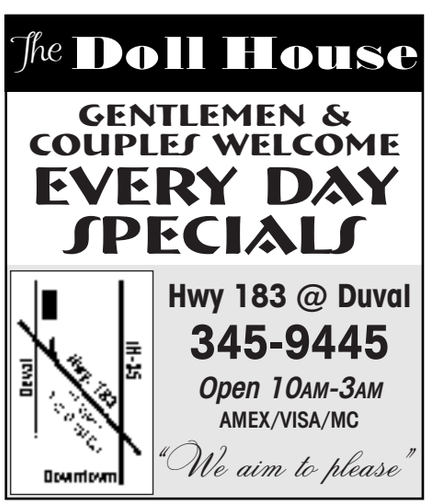
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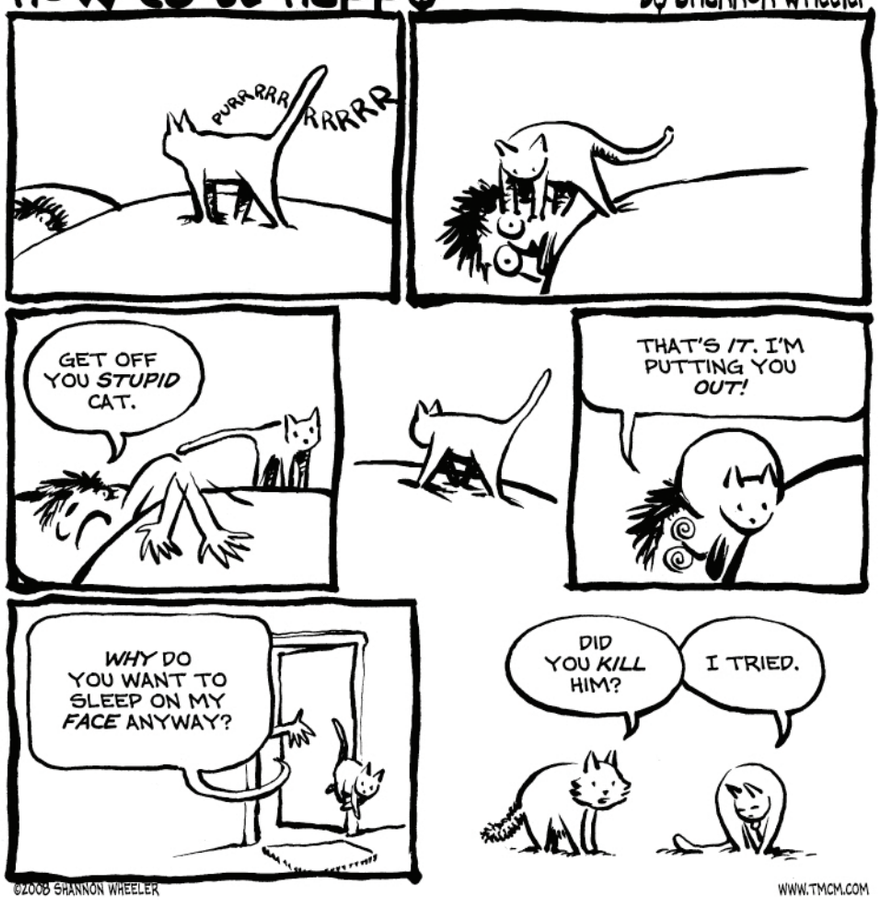
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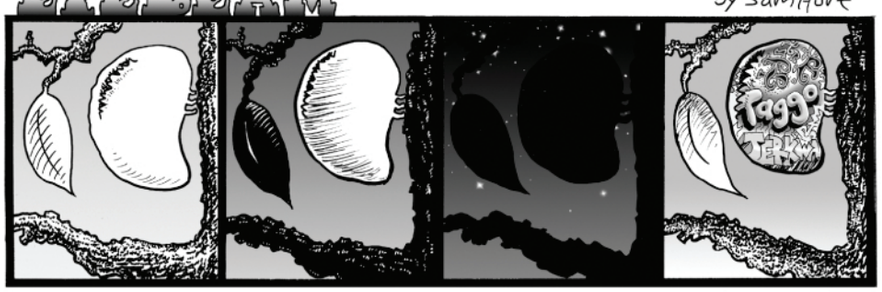


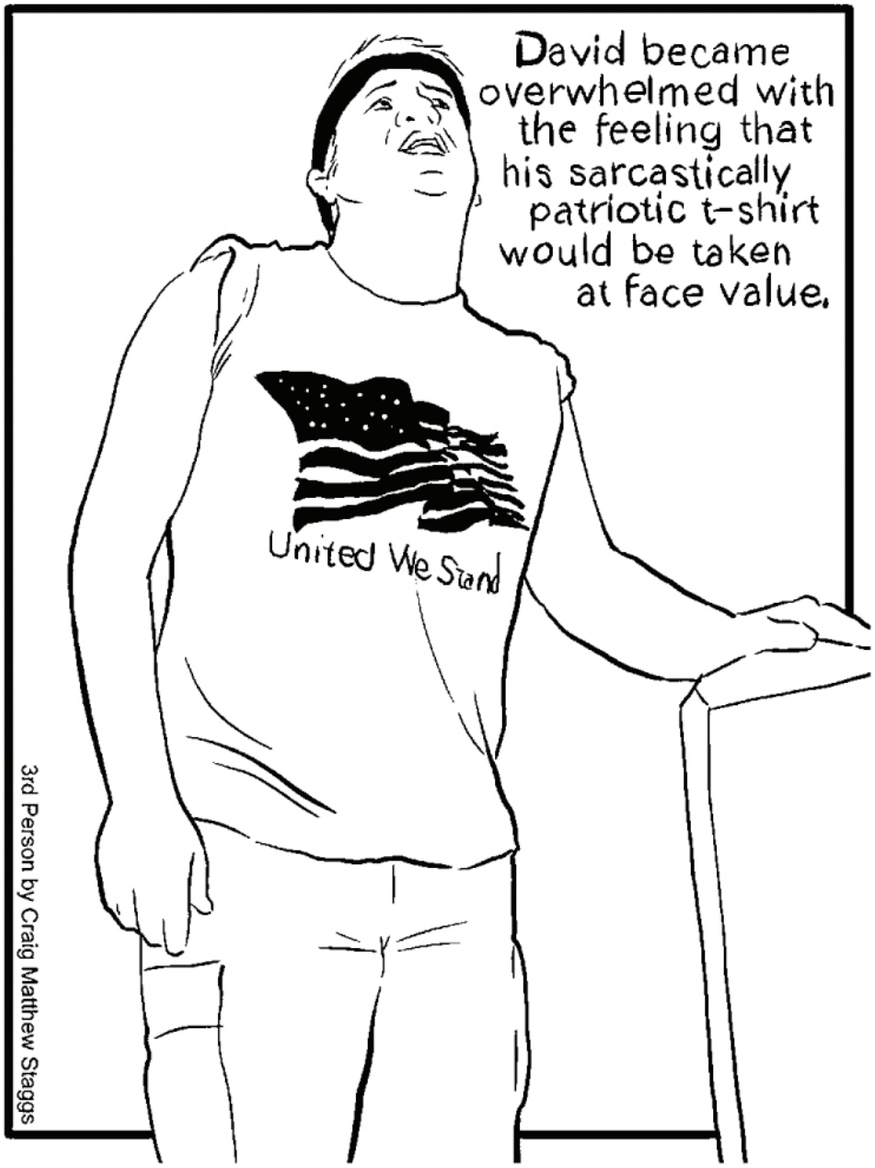
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WWW.TMCM.COM

Eyebeam

by Sam Hurt





3rd Person by Craig Matthew Staggs



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



Elvis Presley laughed when he first heard the song "Hound Dog" performed by Freddie Bell & the Bellboys – they were performing a comical version of the song. Written by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, the song was made a hit in 1952 by Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton.

Minimum wage in Australia is $17 per hour.

Intelligence analysts dispute Bush administration claims that sectarian violence has dropped in Iraq, noting the selective way the military categorizes deaths. "If a bullet went through the back of the head, it's sectarian," a senior intelligence official said. "If it went through the front, it's criminal."

Crystal City, Texas, has one of the highest lawsuit ratios per capita in the nation.

The bacteria salmonella becomes more virulent after 83 hours of growing in space.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, *or e-mail* **mrpants@austinchronicle.com.**

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100 JOBS
110 Art/Design
115 Beauty/Salon/Spa
120 Entertainment/ Casting
125 General
130 Healthcare
135 Hospitality
140 Legal
145 Office/Clerical
150 Non-Profit
155 Professional
160 Research Study
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170 Sales/Marketing
175 School/Training
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200 HOUSING
210 Reader Notice
215 Apartment/ Condo/Townhome
220 Duplex/Houses
225 Vacation
230 Commercial
235 Roommates
240 Real Estate For Sale

300 BUY/SELL/ TRADE
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315 Appliances
320 Baby/Kids Stuff
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330 Computers
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340 Free Stuff
345 Furniture
350 Garage/ Estate Sales
355 General
360 Jewelry/ Accessories
365 Pets/Pet Supplies
370 Recreational
375 Tickets/ Entertainment
380 Tools
385 Trades
390 Wanted to Buy

400 SERVICES
410 Business
415 Computers
420 Counseling
425 Health/Wellness
430 Home
435 Financial
440 Fitness/Training
445 Legal
450 Licensed Massage
455 Psychic/Astrology
460 Travel
465 Miscellaneous

500 NEIGHBORHOOD
510 Activites
515 Classes/Workshops
520 Discussion Groups
525 Events
530 General
535 Lost & Found
540 Volunteers
545 Legal Notices

600 MOTOR
610 Cars
615 Trucks
620 SUV's
625 Motorcycles
630 Recreational
635 Parts
640 Repairs

700 MUSIC
710 Equipment for Sale
715 Music Instruction
720 Musicians Available
725 Musicians Wanted
730 Recording Studios
735 Rentals/Services
740 Shameless Promotion

PERSONALS
Lovers Lane
Easy Street
Shot in the Dark
Messages

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-6pm
Deadlines: Tuesday, 1pm
Phone: 512-454-5767
Email: classifieds@austinchronicle.com



110 ART/DESIGN

ART
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Well, not really, but we sure do have alot of fun. Americas fastest growing art co. seeks enthusiastic women and men for our 90 day management training program. You must enjoy a casual dress code, travel and having fun! Earn $300-$800 per week during training. Travel and health benefits available.
For an immediate interview call 926-7300 ext.3

115 BEAUTY SALON/SPA

HAIRSTYLISTS / NAIL TECHS Lease $130/wk. Downtown location. Lots of walk-ins. 320-5907.

STYLIST Immediate opening for motivated, talented hair stylist for NW Austin salon. Please call 918-0114

125 GENERAL

ALL

HEB
Is now hiring for our new location in Westlake.

- **Earn great pay at our new store in Westlake Hills.**
- **Most positions start at $9 per hour**
- **Immediate Paid Training**
- **Flexible schedules**
- **FT & PT positions**

The Job Fair days is Monday-Thursday 10am-6pm and Fridays 10am-4pm Saturday 9am-4pm

HEB
701 S Capital of Texas Hwy
West Lake Hills, TX 78746

BILINGUAL SALESPEOPLE NEEDED Growing locally owned furniture store needs bilingual salespeople for full or part-time positions. Must speak English and Spanish, have some sales experience, good communication skills and able to work weekends. Commission and Bonuses paid. Apply in person at:
Discount Furniture
Muebleria Alex
6801 N Lamar Blvd

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www.transportserviceco.com

DRIVERS Tow-Truck Drivers wanted. Must have experience and good driving record. Call Robert 452-9843.

GENERAL

Jimmy Johns is Now Hiring!
In-Shop and Driver Positions for All Shifts at All Stores.
Stop by at 601 W. MLK or apply at a Jimmy Johns near you.

HEALTH ATTENDANT Seeking reliable, energetic, cheerful individual. Full Time weekdays Mon-Fri, 7am-4pm. Home Health Attendant, experience preferred but will train. $12hr. Central West Austin. Call Alison for interview. No calls after 6pm please. 512-371-3036.

MYSTERY SHOPPERS - Get paid to shop! Retail/Dining establishments need undercover clients to judge quality/ customer service. Earn up to $150 a day. Call 800-901-9370. (AAN CAN)

OUTDOOR YOUTH COUNSELOR Make more than a living. Make a difference. Immediate job opportunities at Eckerd outdoor therapeutic programs in NC, TN, GA, FL, VT, NH and RI. Year-round residential position, free room & board, competitive salary/ benefits. Info and apply online: http://www.eckerdyouth.org. Or fax resume to Career Advisor/AN, 727-442-5911. EOE/ DFWP (AAN CAN)

POLITICAL CANVASSER An Austin Democratic campaign is looking for part-time paid interns. For more info contact achunt@gmail.com or call (361)533-1842.

WEBSITE Browse our classifieds section online! **austinchronicle.com**

PART TIME

Extend-A-Care for Kids

Children are our future.
Be a positive role model working with elementary age kids in the afternoons. Work hours 2:15-6:30 p.m. M-F. Starting pay $9.00-$9.60/hr. EOE. Sites at 64 elementary schools. Spanish speakers needed. Apply at
Extend-A-Care for Kids,
55 North IH 35,
www.eackids.org,
or call 472-9929 x408.

130 HEALTHCARE

ATTENDANT I need a full time dependable assistant/attendant with excellent people skills and a can-do personality. I'm a 34 year old man paralyzed from the neck down. I work for an advertising agency and have an office in the home. Daily living needs include dressing, showering, cathing, house cleaning, and assistance with home run business. I'm also a painter and require help mixing paint, cleaning brushes, etc. Hours are 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday-Friday. Located minutes outside of Austin in the hill country. Dependability is a must. Pay is $13/hr with potential for performance based raises. additional information about me or my story can be found at www.jdunten.com. Please call 512-264-2825.

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National Super One-hour optical, seeking an experienced General Manager for Round Rock and Austin locations. Qualified candidates must have significant (min. 3 yrs.) management experience in a high volume retail environment. The right candidate will receive salary commensurate with experience and an excellent benefit package including paid vacation, health insurance, and a generous 401K plan. To apply, please fax your resume to 210-495-4119, Attention Craig. EOE

GET PAID FOR CARING
We need Support Home Living staff to work various part time hours/ week working with cognitive challenged clients in their homes in Austin and surrounding areas. $9/hr. Flexible hrs. Call 1-800-867-0047 for Dana. Apply at 1106 Clayton Lane, Ste. 250W, Austin, TX 78723; fax resume to 512-338-1555; email resume to dmcbride@empowermentoptions.com
EOE
EMPOWERMENT OPTIONS
Community Living Alternatives
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SPEECH PATHOLOGIST
Health Force Pediatrics Outpatient Rehabilitation has an immediate opening for a Speech Language Pathologist to work full time. Apply in person at: 1501 N DeLeon St. Victoria, Texas 77901 or Call: 361-582-0611 or Fax 361-582-0555 email: health4s@zamigo.net or apply online at www.healthforcevictoria.com

135 HOSPITALITY

ALL

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Is now hiring for our new location in Westlake.

- **Earn great pay at our new store in Westlake Hills.**
- **Most positions start at $9 per hour**
- **Immediate Paid Training**
- **Flexible schedules**
- **FT & PT positions**

The Job Fair days is Monday-Thursday 10am-6pm and Fridays 10am-4pm
Saturday 9am-4pm

HEB
701 S Capital of Texas Hwy
West Lake Hills, TX 78746

EMPLOYMENT Hire employees who are as smart as you are! Advertise your positions in the Austin Chronicle's Help Wanted section. Call 512-454-5765 for more info.

ALL Now Hiring! Servers and Hosts. PT & FT positions, flexible schedules. Las Palomas Restaurant & Bar, Westwood Shopping Center, 3201 Bee Caves #122. Apply in Person Tues - Sat.
laspalomasrestaurant.com

ALL

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Open Interviews
Hilton Garden Inn
500 North IH 35
Feb 9&10th
9am-4pm

BEAT THE HEAT!
Just don't feed the bears!!!

Glacier Park, Inc. operates the 7 historic lodges in Glacier National Park. We are actively seeking the following positions for the 2008 summer season (May-Sept):

*Tour Drivers
*Waitstaff/Servers
*Line / Prep Cooks
*Retail Associates
*Night Audit
*Housekeeping
*Laundry
*Warehouse
*Front Desk
*Bartender

Internships available where applicable

Meals and housing plans available

Added incentives for management/bonus potential.

Visit our Web site at **www.gpihr.com** to apply or call **(406) 892-6719**

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Tired of the same restaurant?

Try Japanese.

Potential for big money.
Hiring waiters, busboys, and chefs.

Kobe Japanese Steakhouse. 13492 Research Blvd., Ste. 380. NW corner of 183 and Anderson Mill Rd.

KOBE
Japanese Steakhouse

BARTENDER !BARTEND! Up to $300 a day. No experience necessary. Training Available. 1-800-965-6520 x207.

BARTENDERS BARTENDERS NEEDED: Looking for part/full time bartenders. Several positions available. No experience required. With hourly wages and tips make up to $300 per shift. Call (800) 806-0082 ext. 200. (AAN CAN)

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The Landing Strip

MAKE BIG $$$
FT/PT, flex. sched., no exp. nec., 745 Bastrop Hwy, one mile from the airport.
385-2878.

DISHWASHER Quality Seafood is seeking a full time dishwasher. Flexible shifts Monday through Saturday between 7am and 10pm. Apply in person. 5621 Airport Blvd.

ENTERTAINERS

JOY

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is now hiring
• AM BUSSERS AND DISHWASHERS, PM SERVERS

Apply in person at
9505 STONELAKE BLVD
or call 512-372-8771

SERVICE DIRECTOR The Hills of Lakeway is looking for the right person for the roll of Service Director. This is a management position that oversees our service staff, snack bar staff and beverage cart staff at our Hills Country Club location. We are looking for a dedicated & organized professional who enjoys the demands of a fast paced food and beverage environment. At least two years of restaurant management experience and Microsoft Office proficiency is required
This is a 50-55 hr. a week position that has a compensation range btwn. $35,000-$40,000 with a 20% yearly bonus incentive package. We offer a medical, dental and life insurance package after six months of employment. A background check does apply to this position.
The Hills Country Club, 261-7200, patrick.criminger@ourclub.com
Please call or email to schedule interview.

RECEPTIONIST
Night Receptionist for Downtown Private Fine Dining Club - Mon-Sat 4pm to close. Ideal for student - some experience necessary.
Email resume to accounting@austinclub.com

WAITSTAFF

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Looking for full-time server/assistant manager. Apply within M-F between 2-4. Call 451-7505 or 507-2462.

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FT/PT/ Career Ops + Benefits
Call Carrie
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155 PROFESSIONAL

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA

COORDINATOR The Alamo Drafthouse Cinema seeks a **SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR** responsible for building and maintaining relationships with potential corporate sponsors to support events, programming and film festivals of the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema. Sponsorships will be sought to enhance the content of the programming and film festivals and to support the financial and marketing goals of all Alamo events while at the same time providing a benefit to our sponsors.

Position Accountabilities-Proactively identify and target new opportunities for corporate sponsorship. Develop, in coordination with the Alamo programming department, annual timelines for the soliciting of funds/trade/advertising from potential sponsors for all assigned events. Coordinate sponsorship benefits. Ensures sponsors are acknowledged and sponsorship benefits fulfilled. Provides post-event analysis and recommendations for future relationships and sponsors.

The person should have a very strong marketing/PR/corporate communications background with knowledge of brand awareness for benefit of both the sponsor and the company.

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EOE

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A premier central-Texas non-profit serving individuals, youth and families has the following openings in Austin:

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CASE MANAGER II

FT position providing case management services to adolesecents residing in an Emergency Shelter. Visit www.lifeworksweb.org for more information. Minority and bilingual candidates encouraged to apply. Resume/cover letter to **LifeWorks, Attn: Janine Borrell, 3700 South 1st St, Austin, TX 78704. Email: janine.borrell@lifeworksweb.org**
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For an application, call

866-258-0375
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Open Interviews
Hilton Garden Inn
500 North IH 35
Feb 9&10th
9am-4pm

Glacier National Park

Beat the heat...
Just don't feed the bears!!!

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- Line / Prep Cooks
- Retail Associates
- Night Audit
- Housekeeping
- Laundry
- Warehouse
- Front Desk
- Bartenders

Internships available where applicable

Meals and housing plans available

Added incentives for management/bonus potential. Visit our Web site at **www.gpihr.com** to apply or call (406) 892-6719

LOOKING FOR A GREAT LEADER!!!!

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We offer a medical, dental and life insurance package after six months of employment. A background check does apply to this position.

THE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

The Hills Country Club
26 Club Estates Parkway
Austin, Tx 78738 • 261-7200
patrick.criminger@ourclub.com
Please call or email to schedule interview.

Pedernales Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Construction Supervisor

Cedar Park and Kyle locations

Pedernales Electric Cooperative is looking for conscientious leaders to join the Operations team in our Cedar Park and Kyle District locations. Construction Supervisors are responsible for supervising, training and developing line workers in the areas of overhead and URD construction. Additional responsibilities include overseeing job safety, emergency repairs, restoring power outages, use and maintenance of tools, equipment and vehicles. The ideal candidates will have a positive attitude and excellent verbal and written communication skills.

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- Must be electrically qualified with four years related utility experience
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PEC is the nation's largest and fastest growing cooperative. We provide exceptional customer service and reliable electric service to over 220,000 members in the Texas Hill Country.

For more information about Pedernales Electric Cooperative please visit our website:

www.pec.coop

Mail, email or fax application/resume to:

Pedernales Electric Cooperative
Human Resources,
Cedar Park - Req. #14277
Kyle - Req. #14285
P. O. Box 1
Johnson City, Texas 78636

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Fax: 830-868-4993

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Please put the requested headquarter location from above ad in the subject line of your e-mail.

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INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD

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Friday 10AM-4PM • Saturday 9AM-4PM

Suite Q-990 (next to Alyson Jon Imports) in the Village at Westlake Shopping Center

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H-E-B

For Positions at all other area H-E-B Stores please call our Job Line at 421-1019

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EOE/DRL O E

at&t

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Pediatric Rehabilitation

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Make The Grade!

have a four year degree and are available to work
40 hours a week (M-F, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm), we
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DEPRESSION

ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM DEPRESSION?

Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms?

- Sad or depressed mood
- Loss of interest in work or activities
- Change in appetite – overeating or loss of appetite
- Change in sleep – oversleep or insomnia
- Decrease of motivation
- Lack of energy
- Difficulty concentrating

Call to participate in an investigational medication study

(512) 323-2622 or **(866) 798-2622**

COMMUNITY CLINICAL RESEARCH

www.communityclinical.com

Do you have Osteoarthritis?



A clinical research trial of an investigational medication is being conducted for people 40 years or older with a history of knee pain related to osteoarthritis.

Qualified Participants:

- Overall in general good heath
- Male or Female 40 years or older with knee pain related to osteoarthritis
- Must be willing to make 6 clinic visits over 30 days

Qualified Participants May Receive:

- Study-related care and study-related medications
- Financial compensation for time and travel up to $400.00

For more Information contact us at:
512-732-2444
or
studies@metaclin.com

WWW.METACLIN.COM

DO YOU OR YOUR CHILD HAVE ATOPIC DERMATITIS?
(A TYPE OF ECZEMA)

Symptoms of this specific type of eczema are:

- Patches of dry skin that itch (usually behind the knees and inside the bend of the elbows)
- Bumpy/scab-like areas of the skin
- A family history of allergies or dry skin

DermResearch is looking for people to participate in a research study evaluating an investigational medication to be applied to the skin for atopic dermatitis. To qualify, you or your child must have current symptoms. The study requires 4 clinic visits over a 4 week period. Qualified participants will receive up to $300 for their time and travel.

DermResearch Inc.

For more information, call:

349-0500

MIGRAINE HEADACHE RESEARCH STUDY

If you are an adult who suffers from migraine headaches, you might qualify to participate in a clinical research study evaluating a single dose of an oral investigational medication used for the relief of a migraine headache.

The study requires three clinic visits. Study participants will receive up to $400.

DermResearch Inc.

For more information, call:

349-0500

DO YOU HAVE ROSACEA?

- Do spicy foods and alcohol make your face flush?
- Does your face always look like you have a sunburn?
- Do you have pimples on your nose and cheeks?

You could have rosacea. People with rosacea are needed to participate in a clinical research study comparing the safety and effectiveness of an investigational topical medication to placebo for the treatment of rosacea.

The study requires 6 clinic visits over a 12-week period.

Qualified participants will receive:

- Study medication at no cost
- Examination by a board certified dermatologist
- Up to $360 for study completion

DermResearch Inc.

For more information, call:

349-0500

DO YOU HAVE TOENAIL FUNGUS?

If so, you may qualify to participate in a research study testing an investigational medication for the treatment of toenail fungus.

The study requires 12 clinic visits over a one year period. Qualified participants will receive up to $1000.

DermResearch Inc.

For more information, call:

349-0500

CONTINUED

155 PROFESSIONAL

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- 40 hrs/week
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See www.tsl.state.tx.us for complete job description and application procedures

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165 RETAIL

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program (June 22 - August 17, 2008) aims to recruit talented candidates from
diverse backgrounds and train them in alt-weekly style feature writing. Ten
participants will be chosen and paid $3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit http://aaj.aan.org. You may also email us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 8, 2008. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

HAS SEXUAL ABUSE AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a treatment study for women with a history of sexual abuse who are experiencing sexual difficulties. Treatment is free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior. If you have a history of sexual abuse you may qualify.

For more information, please call
(512)232-4805
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Time Warner Cable is looking for men and women to join our Customer Care Team in Austin and Waco. You will provide outstanding customer service through sales and retention initiatives. FT with various shifts, flexibility required.

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Time Warner Cable is looking for motivated men and women to join our Sales Team in Austin, Waco, and Killeen. In this role, you will have direct contact with the public through residential and door-to-door sales. Average annual income ranges from $45,000 to $115,000. Valid drivers license and clean driving record required.

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EOE M/F/D/V

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Lineman

Pedernales Electric Cooperative is looking for dependable individuals to join our operations team in various PEC district locations. District locations include:

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- Bertram
- Canyon Lake
- Cedar Park
- Johnson City
- Junction
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Positions are available for both experienced and entry level Linemen. Linemen perform duties required in the operation, maintenance, construction, and repair of PEC's transmission and distribution systems. The ideal candidates will have experience or desire a career in the electrical field, be team players, and enjoy working outdoors.

Minimum Job Requirements:
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- A valid Texas driver's license (Class A CDL preferred; must obtain if selected)
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Salary is based on experience. PEC offers a generous benefits package which includes a matching 401(k) plan, health, dental, and life insurance.

PEC is the nation's largest and fastest growing cooperative. We provide exceptional customer service and reliable electric service to over 220,000 members in the Texas Hill Country.

For more information about Pedernales Electric Cooperative please visit our website:

www.pec.coop

Mail, email or fax application/resume to:

Pedernales Electric Cooperative
Human Resources
P. O. Box 1
Johnson City, Texas 78636

Email: careers@peci.com

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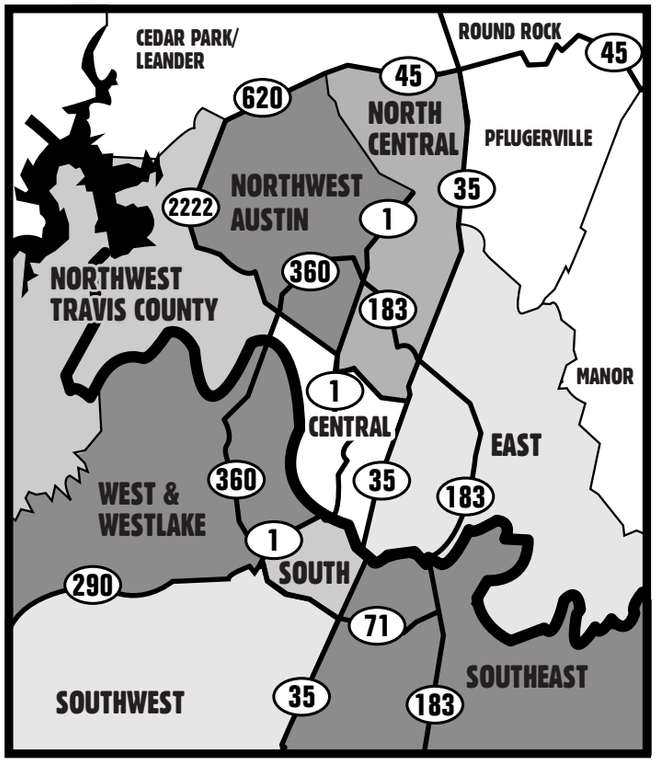
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NORTH: Studio $415, 2B $670.
NORTHWEST: 1-1 $509 Huge 2-2, $729. 3BD $900. 2-2 Townhome $710 w/d conn, fireplace, vaulted ceilings, and $200 off 1st month
SOUTHWEST: 1B $470, 2B $619. 3B w/yard $1049
SOUTH: Studio $460, free cable. 2 Bedroom Townhome $725, "Large Patio" 1-1 $459. Great Location. Greenbelt: 2B $610

NORTHWEST Almost too good to be true! NW special. New 1-1 $635 2-2 $790. Paid cable and W/D included. 692-4525 www.apartmentlocating.com

SOUTH http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 2BDRM South Central, W/D connections, walk to cafe/shops/downtown, $840.

SOUTH http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Heavily wooded park setting, large decks, trees, big dogs, $645.

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(Includes 1st Month's Rent, Deposit & Application)

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1BDRM... $535

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2/1 w/private deck... $745

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SOUTHWEST http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Upscale 2BDRM, W/D, Sunset Valley area, $878, 3BDR $976.

220 DUPLEX/HOUSES

CENTRAL 2-1 nice 4-plx 2013 Cullen Ave, remodeled, clean HVAC,W&D pets neg.$775/mo Linda Bueltel (ag.) 423-6843

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CENTRAL 2-1 with hardwoods, 1211 E. 52nd, $785 per month, most utilities paid, deposit and lease. Available 3/1. Call 524-4719.

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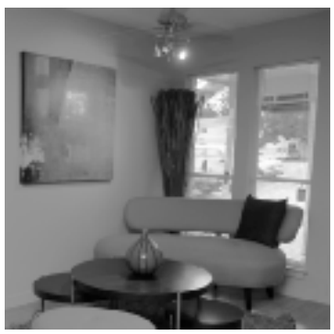
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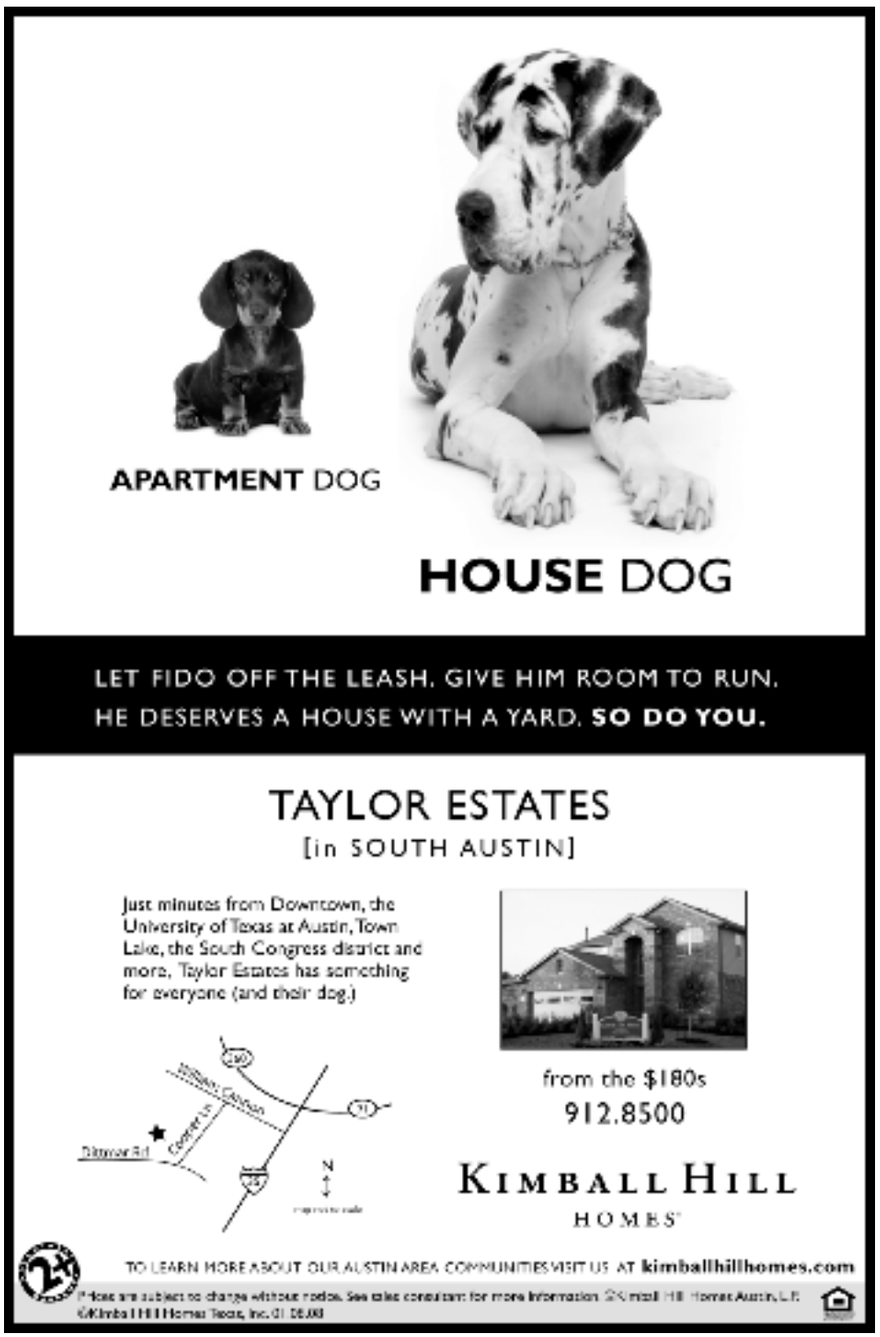
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NEIGHBORHOOD

510 ACTIVITIES

ADULT BASEBALL Tryouts - www.ctbl.org - play baseball, not softball. Ages 18+. Tryouts on 1/27, sign up on website. March to August season.

515 CLASSES WORKSHOPS

CANINE NUTRITION Free Canine Nutrition Seminar Thursday 2/7 6:30-7:30 PM The Furr Factor 2210 S. 1st St. RSVP to 512-502-5750. We will be focusing on reading ingredient labels, the Canine Digestive System, facts and myths of the dog food industry, benefits of Premium Food and Raw Diets, and more! If your dogs have allergies, skin problems, behavioral problems, mysterious symptoms, and/or other ailments food may be the culprit. Find out why switching foods can have a dramatic impact your pets health. Gain knowledge about canine digestion and nutrition and receive free trials of super premium dry foods and raw diets. Find out why even feeding even a LITTLE raw in your pets diet can have profound effects on health and appearance and learn how easy it really is! Come armed with all of your questions!

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545 LEGAL NOTICES

ALIAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION
AUSTIN CHRONICLE
4000 N IH 35
AUSTIN, TX 78751
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: JAMES ZOU Defendant, in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your Attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being MONDAY

02/18/08 a default judgment may be taken against you.

CAUSE NUMBER: C-1-CV-06-006991, filed in COUNTY COURT AT LAW 2

CACH VS ZOU

Filed in COUNTY COURT AT LAW 2 (Travis County Courthouse, corner of Tenth Street and Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas) on December 26, 2007.

STYLED: CACH VS ZOU

NATURE OF SUIT: debt

Given under my hand and the seal of Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk on January 02, 2008.

County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. BOX 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy:
/s/ C. Maddox
Plaintiff Attorney:
CHRISTOPHER R. DELONEY
2214 MAIN STREET
DALLAS, TX 75201

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MONROE JAMES DEAN, Deceased, No. 87934 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

MYRTLE L. DEAN alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 22ND day of JANUARY, 2008, an Application to Declare Heirship and For Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said MONROE JAMES DEAN, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 22nd day of January, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714
By Deputy:/s/ Marie Shanklin

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL

HARDIN MOLLOY, Deceased, No. 88082 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

RAYMOND J BERGER and all alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 28TH day of JANUARY, 2008, an Application for Appointment of Independent Administrator without bond and determination of Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said MICHAEL HARDIN MOLLOY, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after days of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 28th day of January, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714
By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO FERNANDO V CAMPOS

VICENTE T. CAMPOS, Deceased, No. 84908 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

DIONICIO V CAMPOS alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 23rd day of May, 2006, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said VICENTE T. CAMPOS, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 17th day of January, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714
By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO MARIA V DeANDA

VICENTE T. CAMPOS, Deceased, No. 84908 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

DIONICIO V CAMPOS alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 23rd day of May, 2006, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said VICENTE T. CAMPOS, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 17th day of January, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714
By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO ISAAC V CAMPOS

VICENTE T. CAMPOS, Deceased, No. 84908 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

DIONICIO V CAMPOS alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 23rd day of May, 2006, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said VICENTE T. CAMPOS, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 17th day of January, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714
By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-08-000308 To: MAURICIO RIOS and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 98TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP of LILY SALCEDO Petitioner(s), filed in said court on JANUARY 18, 2008, against MAURICIO RIOS Respondent(s), and said suit being number D-1-FM-08-000308 the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF SUMMER RIOS A MINOR CHILD", the nature of which suit is a request IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD'S interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD'S adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, January 18, 2008.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ JULIO COLON, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
LILY SALCEDO
11501 GLENN KNOLL
MANOR, TX 78653

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF RICHARD HARVEY BELL, Deceased, No. 88009 in Pro-



Bo crossed over December 17.
He loved everybody and will be missed.

the COMMON LAW

by Luke Ellis

The material in this column is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute, nor is it a substitute for, legal advice. For advice on your specific facts and circumstances, consult a licensed attorney.

AVOID FORECLOSURE NIGHTMARE

My mortgage payment is going to be increased this year. I'm really worried about not being able to make the payments and foreclosure. What can I do?

We have seen and heard a lot about the housing market crisis in recent months. Most reports have focused on the soaring number of foreclosures, due in many cases to adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) that homeowners simply can't pay. Some argue for government intervention to limit the lender's ability to increase mortgage payments while others oppose the government bail-out and argue that homeowners must comply with the lending agreement.

With the likelihood of government intervention uncertain, most economic and housing experts predict even more foreclosures in 2008. Sometimes unanticipated financial troubles – losing a job, health issues and medical bills, death or divorce – can affect a homeowner's ability to make payments. For these homeowners, along with others that already struggle with their monthly payments, the prospect of ARMs that will increase monthly payment beyond the tipping point causes serious problems.

Losing a primary residence and any accrued equity in the property can be a financial nightmare. Unfortunately, the homeowner's problems don't end with mere loss of the property. In some situations where the property is worth less than the total amount owed, the lender may pursue a deficiency judgment, which represents the difference between the resold price of the property and the amount owed to the lender. So in addition to losing the property, the homeowner will also be required to pay the additional "deficiency" amount owed to the lender. Moreover, foreclosures and deficiency judgments can have negative effects on the homeowner's credit score for years. This perpetuates a downward financial spiral by making it much more difficult to obtain a mortgage (or other loan) in the future.

The best way to prevent foreclosure is to not let it happen in the first place. Start to prepare now if your mortgage will increase in 2008 or other circumstances may place you in danger of not making the monthly payment. Cut down on monthly expenses, create a tight budget and start saving an emergency mortgage fund that you can dip into if you get into a bind. You can also contact a Department of Housing and Urban Development-approved housing counseling agency (800/569-4287) for counseling to better organize your financial situation.

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and comments to **thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com**. Submission of potential topics does not create an attorney-client relationship, and any information submitted is subject to being included in future columns.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

Travis County is eligible to receive an estimated $ 856,404 from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, in the form of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

HUD awards these types of grants to communities to carry out a wide range of community development activities aimed at revitalizing neighborhoods, improving affordable housing options, and providing improved community facilities and services.

In accordance with federal guidelines and in order to best serve the community, Travis County officials and staff are seeking input from residents and service providers of the unincorporated areas of Travis County during a series of scheduled public meetings regarding the most effective use of these federal funds. This information will ultimately be incorporated into the County's Program Year 2008 Annual Action Plan.

To request that an American Sign Language or Spanish interpreter be present at any of these meetings, please contact staff at least five business days in advance at HYPERLINK "mail to: christy.moffett@co.travis.tx.us" christy.moffett@co.travis.tx.us or (512) 854-3460.

These Public Forums will be held according to the following schedule:

LOCATION	*DATE AND TIME*
Travis County Granger Building Commissioners Courtroom 314 W. 11th St., Austin, TX 78701	Tuesday, February 19th, 2008 @ 9 am
TNR Satellite Office 1 9301 Johnnie Morris Road - Austin, Texas 78724	Thursday, February 21st, 2008 @ 6:30 pm
Travis County Community Center 15822 Foothills Farm Loop, Bldg D - Pflugerville, Texas	Monday, February 25th, 2008 @ 6:30pm
West Rural Community Center 8656-A Hwy 71 W., Suite A - Oak Hill, Texas	Monday, February 27th, 2008 @ 6:30pm
South Rural Community Center 3518 FM 973 - Del Valle, TX	Monday, March 3rd, 2008 @ 6:30 pm

For more information, please visit the Travis County Website at www.co.travis.tx.us or contact Meg Poag, Senior Planner, Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service, at 854-3465 or meg.poag@co.travis.tx.us.

Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service
P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767, (512) 854-4100 Fax (512) 854-4115

INVITAMOS AL PÚBLICO A PARTICIPAR

El Condado de Travis es elegible para recibir un estimado de $ 856,404 de la Oficina de Desarrollo y Planeamiento Comunitario del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (HUD), en forma de Subsidio en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG).

HUD otorga este tipo de subsidios a las comunidades para que lleven a cabo una amplia gama de actividades de desarrollo comunitario con el fin de revitalizar los vecindarios, mejorar las opciones de viviendas a precios accesibles y brindar mejores instalaciones y servicios comunitarios.

Conforme a los lineamientos federales y para brindar mejores servicios a la comunidad, los funcionarios y el personal del Condado de Travis están solicitando las opiniones y sugerencias de los residentes de las áreas no incorporadas del Condado de Travis durante una serie de reuniones públicas programadas para discutir cuales son los usos más efectivos de estos fondos federales. Al final, esta información se incorporará en el Plan de Acción Anual del 2008.

Para solicitar que haya un intérprete en español o de lenguaje americano de señas en alguna de estas reuniones, por favor contacte al personal por lo menos con cinco días hábiles de anterioridad, escribiendo al correo electrónico HYPERLINK "mailto:christy.moffett@co.travis.tx.us"christy.moffett@co.travis.tx.us o llamando al (512) 854-3460

Estos foros públicos se llevarán a cabo de acuerdo con el siguiente horario:

LUGAR	*FECHA Y HORA*
Travis County Granger Building Commissioners Courtroom 314 W. 11th St., Austin, TX 78701	Martes, 19 de febrero de 2008 a las 9:00 a.m.
TNR Satellite Office 1 9301 Johnnie Morris Road - Austin, Texas 78724	Jueves, 21 de febrero de 2008 a las 6:30 p.m.
Travis County Community Center 15822 Foothills Farm Loop, Bldg D - Pflugerville, Texas	Lunes, 25 de febrero de 2008 a las 6:30 p.m.
West Rural Community Center 8656-A Hwy 71 W., Suite A - Oak Hill, Texas	Miercoles, 27 de febrero de 2008 a las 6:30 p.m.
South Rural Community Center 3518 FM 973 - Del Valle, Texas	LUNES, 3 DE MARZO DE 2008 A LAS 6:30 P.M.

Para más información, sírvase visitar el sitio Web del Condado de Travis en HYPERLINK "http://www.co.travis.tx.us/"www.co.travis.tx.us o comuníquese con Christy Moffett, Planificadora Superior, Servicios Humanos y de Salud y Servicios para Veteranos del Condado de Travis, al 854-3460 o HYPERLINK "mailto:christy.moffett@co.travis.tx.us"christy.moffett@co.travis.tx.us

Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service
P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767, (512) 854-4100 Fax (512) 854-4115

Car TALK

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR MECHANIC IS A DRIP

Dear Tom and Ray:

I went to one of those 10-minute-oil-change places, and I got out of my vehicle to watch the employee work on my car. He began pumping oil into my engine from one of the overhead hoses, and while he pumped the oil, he started talking with his buddy who was servicing the next car over. He wasn't paying any attention to what he was doing, and he didn't realize that the oil hose had slipped out of the hole. He was holding the trigger and spraying oil all over my engine. When he realized his mistake several seconds later, he repositioned the hose back in the hole and continued pumping oil. Once it was full, he tightened the cap and tried to spray off the oil with water and wipe some oil off with a rag. I was amazed and didn't know what to say. He had gotten oil all over the valve cover, on all the wiring, on the spark-plug wires, on the windshield, and on all sorts of things that I'm sure I don't know about yet. My question: Is it possible that I will experience problems in the future as the oil seeps into just about everything? And what should I do to resolve the problem? Will an engine detail be enough? – Alex

TOM: The windshield? Geez, he really painted the thing, huh, Alex?

RAY: Actually, this happens a lot. And while there's no danger of engine parts being ruined by being covered in oil, there is a slight fire danger. If oil were to pool on the hot exhaust manifold, it could ignite. And that would be very exciting, wouldn't it?

TOM: That's why, when my brother squirts oil all over someone's engine, he always cleans it off with a solvent.

RAY: Right. It's a pain in the butt, but if we don't clean it up, the oil will burn off and will smoke and smell bad, and we'll probably lose a customer.

TOM: You mean *another* customer!

RAY: Right. So we clean it off with a solvent rather than water, because a solvent will actually *work*. Then we'll run the engine to burn off anything we missed while my brother stands by with twigs and marshmallows, just in case.

TOM: So, having your engine steam-cleaned would be more than adequate, Alex. And you should ask those guys to pay for it.

RAY: And next time, sit in the waiting room and read a *People* magazine like you're supposed to, so you won't have to see stuff like this.

* * *

To buy or not to buy – options, that is. Are options worth what you pay for them, or are you better off just going with the basics? Order Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" to find out. Send $4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the *Car Talk* website at **www.cartalk.com**.

Tune in to *Car Talk* each Saturday at 9am on

kut 90.5 AUSTIN TEXAS

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bate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

NOBLE BOSWELL alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 17th day of JANUARY, 2008, an Application for Appointment of Independent Administrator, Determination of Heirship & for Issuance of Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said RICHARD HARVEY BELL, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 17th day of January, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325,

Austin, Texas 78714

By Deputy:/s/RoxAnne Torrez

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF FRANCES MARY DAVIS aka BONNIE DAVIS, Deceased, No. 88050 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

JOHN DAVIS AND ALL alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled, filed on the 23rd day of January, 2008, an Application to Determine Heirship and Issuance of Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said FRANCES MARY DAVIS aka BONNIE DAVIS, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 23rd day of January, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325,

Austin, Texas 78714

By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

NO. 07-0585-CP4 IN RE:
ESTATE OF HAZEL E. SHANKS, DECEASED
IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 4
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Hazel E. Shanks, Deceased, were issued on December 26, 2007 under Docket No. 07-0585-CP4, pending in the County Court at Law No. 4 of Williamson County, Texas, to: Deborah S. Calhoun.

Claims may be presented to the following:

Rick J. Kennon

Slater & Kennon, LLP

4807 Spicewood Springs Road

Building 2, Suite 240

Austin, Texas 78759

Attorneys for the Estate

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 23rd day of January, 2008.

/s/ Rick J. Kennon

Attorney for the Estate

NO. 87,747 IN THE ESTATE OF BROOKS WARREN KNIGHT, DECEASED
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY AND APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

Notice is hereby given that on the 15th day of January, 2008, Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Brooks Warren Knight, Deceased, were granted to the Independent Executor, Theresa Leyva Knight, by the Honorable Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, in Cause No. 87,747 pending upon the Docket of said Court.

All persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time prescribed by law to R. Keith Morris III at the post office address of the attorney for the said R. Keith Morris III being shown below:

Estate of Brooks Warren Knight, Deceased

The Morris Law Office

c/o Keith Morris

3310 Katy Freeway,

Suite 150

Houston, Texas 77007

THE MORRIS LAW OFFICE

/s/ Keith Morris

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicle(s) will be auctioned off by AusTex unless charges are satisfied within ten (10) days.

Toyota Prius, paper tags, TX, VIN JTDKB20U483353126

AusTex Towing & Recovery, LLC

306 Farley Drive

Office-201 East Braker Lane

Austin, TX 78753

(Address where vehicle is stored)

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 10 DAYS.

GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTHSIDE WRECKER, 8200 S CONGRESS , AUSTIN, TX.

GENIE/TML LIGHTS
5D8LC14174R000697

GREEN CANOE
1C463421899

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at the Uncle Bob's Self Storage locations listed below; And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the following addresses to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash Only.

Uncle Bob's #285
9717 US HWY 290 E
Austin, TX 78724
512-278-1220
Tuesday, February 19, 2008 @ 9:00 AM

551 Cordele Hopes: household goods, furniture, boxes

6607 Miriam Castillo: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip, sporting goods

841 Adawna Devine: household goods, furniture, boxes

223 Marisol Sanchez: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

17 Robert Garza: vehicle

Uncle Bob's #231
8227 North Lamar
Austin, TX 78753
512-833-0855
Tuesday, February 19, 2008 @ 10:00 AM

700 Connies Commercail cleaning: household goods, boxes, office equip.

1105 Bret Biggart: household goods

738 Mary Sias: boxes, furniture

920 Norris Fisher: household goods

928 BJ Jones: household goods, boxes, TV or stereo equip.

1108 Brian Bailey: household goods, boxes, sporting goods and tools

1013 Tina Mansoorabadi: household goods, boxes, tools, office and landscaping equip.

1020 Marcella L. Wilson: household goods, furn., boxes, sporting goods, tools

1210 Marvin Lee Grimes: household goods, tools, tv or stereo equip.

1033 Lazaro Garcia: household goods, furn., boxes

1403 Bret Biggart: household goods, furn., appliances

101 Maria Moreno: household goods

7710 Katherine Patton: household goods

1511 Barbara Ogden: household goods, furn, boxes

Uncle Bob's #276
2830 South A.W. Grimes Blvd.
Round Rock, TX 78664
512-310-0279
Tuesday, February 19, 2008 @ 11:00 A.M.

105 Toby Blevins: household goods, furniture, boxes

112 Joel Figueroa: boxes

2103 Linda Balderas: household goods, boxes

2108 Cathy Blackson: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

2403 Roman Saucedo: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

2409 Annette Greely: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

3117 Scott Strong: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

3325 Joe Moreland: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip., office machines, landscaping equip., account records

3408 Erin Tess: furniture, boxes

3420 Justin Nugent: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

4111 Monique Alvarez: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

4404 Keisha Brooks: household goods, furniture, TV's or stereo equip., account records

5413 Dolores Brown: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, TV's or stereo equip., landscaping equip.

6210 Tom Blodgett: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods

7306 Casey Edick: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., landscaping equip., trailer, go carts

7310 John Brown: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip., office machines, construction equip., account records

7415 Jesse Edwards: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, office equip., office machines, account records

8103 Fernando Melendez: household goods, furniture, boxes, account records

8304 Jason Darling: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools

9123 Gayleen Anton: household goods, boxes

9678 Vicki Leonard: household goods, furniture, boxes

Uncle Bob's #197
5547 McNeil Dr.
Austin, TX 78729
(512)336-8390
Tuesday, February 19, 2008 @ 12 noon

1116 Rachel Garcia: household goods, furniture, boxes

1213 Richard Cortez: sporting goods

Uncle Bob's #198
10307 FM 2222
Austin, TX 78730
(512) 372-9046
Tuesday, February 19, 2008 @ 1pm

213 Michael Mullins: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

822 Chad Jones: houshold goods, furniture, TV's or stereo equip.

Uncle Bob's #287
6509 South 1st Street
Austin, TX
(512) 326-9696
Tuesday, February 19, 2008 @ 1:30 pm

329 Anthony Reyes: furniture

1114 Monique Vidouria: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

3232 Jason Stubbs: household goods, boxes

3355 Leticia Nieto: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

3408 James Eckhardt: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATIONS Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulations:

PRECINCT ONE: STOP SIGNS ON HARTSMITH DRIVE AT AUSTIN'S COLONY BLVD., ON HARTSMITH DRIVE AT ETHEREDGE DRIVE, ON REED WILL DRIVE AT BARKSDALE DRIVE, AND ON REED WILL DRIVE AT WICKHAM LANE IN AUSTIN'S COLONY PHASE 5 SECTION 1; STOP SIGNS ON COTTINGHAM DRIVE AT AUSTIN'S COLONY BLVD., ON ETHEREDGE DRIVE AT COTTINGHAM DRIVE, ON BARKSDALE DRIVE AT COTTINGHAM DRIVE, AND ON COTTINGHAM DRIVE AT WICKHAM LANE IN AUSTIN'S COLONY PHASE 5 SECTION 2; PRECINCT TWO: STOP SIGNS ON HOLSTEN HILLS DRIVE AT KEARNEY HILL ROAD, ON PAUMA VALLEY WAY AT KEARNEY HILL ROAD, ON KEARNEY HILL ROAD AT BELLERIVE DRIVE, ON SEVEN BRIDGES COURT AT BELLERIVE DRIVE, AND ON HAIG POINT COVE AT BELLERIVE DRIVE IN MEADOWS AT BLACKHAWK SECTION 5; PRECINCT THREE: STOP SIGNS ON GREENSHORES DRIVE AT PEARCE ROAD, AND ON PAPPY'S WAY AT GREENSHORES DRIVE IN GREENSHORES ON LAKE AUSTIN PHASE 2; STOP SIGNS ON WESTFALIAN TRAIL AT COUNTRY TRAILS LANE, ON APPALOOSA CHASE DRIVE AT WESTFALIAN TRAIL, AND ON APPALOOSA CHASE DRIVE AT COUNTRY TRAILS LANE IN STEINER RANCH PHASE 1, SECTION 6B; STOP SIGNS ON LIPIZZAN DRIVE AT COUNTRY TRAILS LANE, ON LIPIZZAN COURT AT LIPIZZAN DRIVE, ON PINTO CHASE COURT AT LIPIZZAN DRIVE, ON LIPIZZAN DRIVE AT SHIRE RIDGE DRIVE, AND ON SHIRE RIDGE DRIVE AT COUNTRY TRAILS LANE IN STEINER RANCH PHASE 1 SECTION 6D; STOP SIGNS ON APPALOOSA CHASE DRIVE AT COUNTRY TRAILS LANE, ON BLOOMFIELD HILLS PASS AT COUNTRY TRAILS LANE, AND (2) ON BLOOMFIELD HILLS LANE AT BLOOMFIELD HILLS PASS IN STEINER RANCH PHASE 1 SECTION 6E; AND STOP SIGNS ON COUNTRY TRAILS LANE AT RIO MESA DRIVE, (2) ON RIO MESA DRIVE AT COUNTRY TRAILS LANE, ON RIO MESA DRIVE AT RAYO DE LUNA LANE, ON RAYO DE LUNA LANE AT RIO MESA DRIVE, ON SALIDA DEL SOL PASS AT RIO MESA DRIVE, ON VIA CORDOVA COURT AT SALIDA DEL SOL PASS, ON LAS FLORES DRIVE AT RIO MESA DRIVE, ON VAL VERDE DRIVE AT LAS FLORES DRIVE, ON LAS FLORES DRIVE AT CAPELLA TRAIL, ON MARIACHI COURT AT CAPELLA TRAIL, (2) ON VAL VERDE DRIVE AT CAPELLA TRAIL, AND ON RIO MESA DRIVE AT CAPELLA TRAIL IN STEINER RANCH PHASE 1 SECTION 8.

Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposed action may make written request for a mandatory public hearing.

Such request must be addressed to the Executive Manager of Transportation and Natural Resources Department, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas, 78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION A public auction will be held to satisfy landlord's lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code. **Sales will be held February 16, 2008. A sale will be held at 9:00 AM, at 4405 HWY 71 East, Del Valle Location, Phone 512-247-9708. A sale will be held at 11:00 AM at 227 Park 35 Cove North, Buda Location, Phone 512-312-2227. A sale will be held at 1:00 PM at 10707 IH 35, North Austin Location, Phone 512-977-9775.** All units will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Clean up and removal deposit will be required. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid. Sales include items from the following tenant's storage spaces: Abel Albarado- lawn mower, shelf, misc. boxes. John Jones- china cabinet. Daisy Morquecho- living room, toys, boxes. Setoria Williams's- living room, bedroom, misc. boxes. Cherry Raymond- boxes, misc. Jennifer Herrera- TV large, speaker. Brenda Whitebooks, household. Michael Williams- household furniture. Stanly Sanders- cloths, baggage. Gary Reimers- gumball machine, household. Samuel Fernandez- household. Juan Carlos Mendoza- TV, furniture. Angelina Espinoza- baseball cards, furniture.

Mathew Gonzales- household. Timothy Gibson- household, furniture.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Commission of Sunset Valley, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, the 20th day of February, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall located at 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas to consider the following Special Use Application:

An application for approval of a zoning application from 2901 Manchaca Ltd. on 2.14 Acres of the AES 769 Sur 4 Trammell J also known as 4810 West US Highway 290 from SF-Single Family to NC-Neighborhood Commercial.

All interested persons are invited to attend and participate in said hearing. Any person may submit testimony in person at such hearing or submit written comments filed with the City Secretary between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday prior to the hearing. All written comments must be received by 3:00 p.m., on or before Thursday, February 14, 2008. The Zoning application may be examined at the office of the City Secretary of Sunset Valley, Texas during regular office hours.

s/Trish Kabel

City Secretary

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Texas Storage Park, which is located at 10013 Hwy. 620 N. Austin, TX 78726, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 10:00 am on February 19, 2008. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash or equivalent.

Dennis Nunley: 24-Wooden Floor Joists (23'L 4'x4')

NOTICE OF SALE Anita Metcalfe LLC d/b/a 620 Minis, hereby publishes notice as required by Texas Self Storage Facility 59.042 and 59.043 of Public Sale of property listed below to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. All sales are for cash to the highest bidder and are considered final. The sale will be held at 12342 RR 620 N Austin, Texas 78750 on Friday February 15, 2008 at 11:00 AM. Quasar Finance 920, Mark Sadler 802, Ron Flynt 259, Joe Pavelka 115, Darren Pollard 103, Cory Armer 362, Mario Gonzalez 370, Magee Catering 132, Jon Hartman 228, Bill Lasker

AV0214 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY.

THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

February 14, 2008 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 4308 TERRY-0 LANE, AUSTIN, TX 78745

080012013	1993	BMW	2DR	L70JWW	TX	WBABF431XPEK06441
080200712	1990	FORD	VN	1JZF30	TX	1FTDE14NXLHA85224
085002944	1986	JAGU	4DR	PPK27W	TX	SAJAV134XGC457385
085002947	1995	CHEV	2DR	X05BTH	TX	2G1FP22S1S2121193
085002955	1985	CHEV	PK	6WHK60	TX	1GCDC14H7FF333204
085003309	1997	NISS	4DR	J48HJB	TX	JN1CA21D9VT833005
085003312	1997	DODG	4DR	V51MKL	TX	2B3HD46T0VH538802
085003319	1989	TOYT	4DR	083BJN	TX	4T1SV24E1KU037500
085003327	1992	HOND	2DR	598SGF	TX	1HGCB7279NA002326
085003334	1993	TOYT	4DR	082PSC	TX	JT2AE04E8P0039899
085003909	1999	CHRY	2DR	396MLV	TX	4C3AU52N8XE135015
085003911	1997	BOMBARDER			BT	YY94HV
					TX	ZZNR90582A797
085003911	1997	REME	TRAL	22WKYR	TX	2REA3S7A4V2Y44189
085003919	1995	CHEV	2DR	V92TVC	TX	2G1FP22S6S2215585
085004019	1989	FORD	4DR	Y78RWY	TX	1FAPP9599KW350514
085004022	1997	HOND	4DR	V73SKV	TX	1HGEJ6677VL031196
085004063	1996	OLDS	2DR	DKX7150	NY	1G3WH12M5TF370144

116, Hollie Bussard 816, Jana Edwards 934, Sonya Fabricatore 519, Chelsea Goetz 502, Monica Murway 365, Jimmy Rocha 337, Gio Stone 725, Kenneth Wilson 342.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

State of Texas

County of Travis

Cause: 030619265 By virtue of an Writ of Execution issued by the clerk of the District Court 365 Court of TRAVIS County, Texas, November 15, 2007, in cause numbered 030619265, styled PEDRO REYES versus KEVIN MICHAEL WELLS on a judgment rendered against KEVIN MICHAEL WELLS; I did on December 17, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., levy upon as the property of KEVIN MICHAEL WELLS the following described real property:

LOT SIX (6), OF WOODLAND HILLS, SECTION ONE, A SUBDIVISION IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED IN VOLUME 6, PAGE 105 OF THE PLAT RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS.

On February 05, 2008, being the first Tuesday of the month, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas, I will sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the right, title and interest of KEVIN MICHAEL WELLS in and to the real property described above.

Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, January 09, 2008

Bruce Elfant,

Constable Precinct 5

Travis County, Texas

/s/ Alan Redd

by SENIOR DEPUTY ALAN REDD, Deputy

Notice to Bidders: You are buying whatever interest, if any, the Debtor has in the property. Purchase of the Debtor's interest in the property may not extinguish any liens or security interests held by other persons. There are no warranties, express or implied, regarding the property being sold, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

Notice to Judgment Debtor: If there is any property, real or personal, you want to point out for levy in lieu of the above described property, you must contact this office immediately.

Bidders shall present an unexpired written statement issued to the person in the manner prescribed by Section 34.015, Tax Code, showing that the Travis County Assessor-Collector has determined that there are no delinquent ad valorem taxes owed by the person. In addition, an individual may not bid on or purchase property in the name of any other individual.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CHARLES FREEMAN TERRY Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 87,935, styled Estate of Charles Freeman Terry, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original Letters Testamentary were issued on the 24th day of January, 2008, to MARY ELIZABETH THOMAS, who is a resident of Austin, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present same within the time prescribed by law, and before such estate is closed. Claims may be presented to said personal representative at the address shown below and said personal representative directs that any such claims be presented to the attorney for said representative.

MARY ELIZABETH THOMAS,

Independent Executor

c/o JOHN CALHOUN MILLER

ATTORNEY AT LAW

1509 Old West 38th Street #3

Austin, Texas 78731-6328

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BERNARD SEGALL, JR., DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 87910, styled Estate of Bernard Segall, Jr., Deceased, (the "Estate") pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on January 24, 2008, to Austin Trust Company, independent executor.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the independent executor of the estate in care of Patricia A. Campbell at the following address:

c/o Graves, Dougherty,

Hearon & Moody

A Professional Corporation

Attn: Patricia A. Campbell

Post Office Box 98

Austin, Texas 78767

All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this the 24th day of January, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY,

A Professional Corporation

By: /s/ Patricia A. Campbell

State Bar No. 03714100

(512) 480-5625

(512) 480-5825 (fax)

ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

ISSUE DATE

FEBRUARY 1, 2008

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for HVAC Replacement at 2501 S. Congress located in Austin, Texas, will be received by Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, at the Travis County Purchasing Office, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701 until 2:00 P. M., CST, FEBRUARY 21, 2008, then publicly opened and read aloud. Note: The Time-Date Stamp Clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office, will serve as the OFFICIAL CLOCK for the purpose of verifying the date and time of receipt of bids.

Copies of plans and specifications may be obtained from the TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING OFFICE. A refundable deposit of $25.00 in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or company check payable to "Travis County" will be required for each set of bid documents that is issued. The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calendar days of the bid opening. Copies of plans and specifications may be viewed free of charge in the Travis County Purchasing Office. In addition, plans and specifications will be made available for viewing free of charge at various Austin-area Plan Rooms indicated in Exhibit 1.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 2:00 P. M., CST, FEBRUARY 8, 2008 AT THE TRAVIS COUNTY FACILITY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, 1010 LAVACA, SUITE 400, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701.

A bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid amount will be required. Payments will be made for completed work in progressive payments with the County retaining five percent (5%) of each payment until final acceptance of the project. Payments will be made by check. A Payment Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds $25,000. A Performance Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds $100,000. Bidder should use lump sum pricing.

Historically Underutilized Businesses including Contractors, Subcontractors, and Suppliers are encouraged to participate in this project consistent with the goals of the Commissioners Court. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations, all Federal, State, and local regulations for construction safety and health standards.

The successful bidder must commence work upon issuance by County of a written Notice to Proceed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn for ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which they are opened.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

ISSUE DATE

January 30, 2008

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

IFB NUMBER: B080128-RV

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for construction of **Precinct Two Office Building-Modified Entry and Second Floor Expansion (10409 Burnet Road)** located in Austin, Texas, will be received by Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, at the **Travis County Purchasing Office, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701** until **2:00 P. M., CST, February 20, 2008,** then publicly opened and read aloud. **Note: The Time-Date Stamp Clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office, will serve as the OFFICIAL CLOCK for the purpose of verifying the date and time of receipt of bids.**

Copies of plans and specifications may be obtained from the **TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING OFFICE.** A refundable deposit of **$100.00** in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or company check payable to "Travis County" will be required for each set of bid documents that is issued. **The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calendar days of the bid opening.** Copies of plans and specifications may be viewed free of charge in the Travis County Purchasing Office. In addition, plans and specifications will be made available for viewing free of charge at various Austin-area Plan Rooms indicated in Exhibit 1.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON AT 10:00 A. M., CST, FEBRUARY 6, 2008 AT THE TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING OFFICE, 314 WEST 11TH STREET, SUITE 400, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701.

A bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid amount will be required. Payments will be made for completed work in progressive payments with the County retaining five percent (5%) of each payment until final acceptance of the project. Payments will be made by check. A Payment Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds $25,000. A Performance Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds $100,000. Bidder should use lump sum pricing.

Historically Underutilized Businesses including Contractors, Subcontractors, and Suppliers are encouraged to participate in this project consistent with the goals of the Commissioners Court. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations, all Federal, State, and local regulations for construction safety and health standards.

The successful bidder must commence work upon issuance by County of a written Notice to Proceed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn for ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which they are opened.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **Geneva H. Jordan,** Deceased, were issued on January 24, 2008, in Docket No. 87933, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: **Jonathan K. Jordan.** All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims shall be addressed to: "Representative, Estate of **Geneva H. Jordan**

c/o John W. Brodnax

John W. Brodnax, P.C.

1202 Lakeway Dr., Suite 1

Lakeway, Texas 78734"

(512) 261-0101

DATED the 24th day of January, 2008.

/s/ John W. Brodnax

ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

Rita Rae Catlett, Partner Cathy Irene McDaniel Catlett, Partner, DBA Ken's Liquor is making application with the Texas Alcohol-ic Beverage Commission for a Package Store Permit on the address of 9751 Hwy 290 East Ste 200, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78724.

SUMMONS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

DIVISION OF ST. CROIX

CIVIL NO. 296/2006

ACTION FOR DAMAGES

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

CHERENE WILLIAMS individually and as Mother and Next of Friend for ROHAN WATSON, JR., CHERENE WATSON, ROSHAWN WATSON, CHERAINE CHRISTIAN, and MALIKA FELIX, minors, Plaintiffs, v. STEVEN LEJEUNE and BRUCE MERRITT, WYATT V.I., INC., CARIBBEAN AUTO MART f/k/a ANTILLES AUTOMOTIVE, CARMELO ORTIZ TORRES d/b/a HIGHBRIDGE AUTOMOTIVE, "BILLIE DOE", Defendants.

TO: **BRUCE MERRITT, Defendant**

ADDRESS: 4252 Country Road 141, Leona, Texas 75850

Within the time limited by law (see note below) you are hereby required to appear before this Court and answer to a complaint filed against you in this action and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you as demanded in the complaint, for

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Court this 30th day of July, 2007.

DENISE ABRAMSEN

Clerk of the Court

By: /s/ Sharlene Turnbull

Court Clerk #

/s/ Lee J. Rohn, Esquire

Law Offices of Rohn and Cameron, LLC

1101 King Street

Christiansted, VI 00820

Telephone: (340) 778-8855

Facsimile: (340) 773-2954

Note: The defendant, if served personally, is required to file his answer or other defense with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after service of this summons, excluding the date of service. The defendant, if served by by publication or by personal service outside the jurisdiction, is required to file his answer or other defense with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the attorney for the plaintiff within thirty (30) days after the completion of the period of publication or personal service outside of the jurisdiction.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:
1.Residential Plumbing Services, B080110DR
Opens: February 11, 2008 @ 10:00 a.m.
2.HVAC Residential Services, B080001DR
Opens: February 11, 2008 @ 10:00 a.m.
3.Pest Control Services - Countywide, B080073RG
Opens: February 19, 2008 @ 3:00 p.m.
AN OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 11, 2008 @ 10:00 A.M.
4.Persystent Software Licenses, Maintenance & Training, B080103VC
Opens: February 11, 2008 @ 2:00 p.m.
5.Erosion Control Services, B080137DR
Opens: February 19, 2008 @ 11:00 a.m.
AN OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 6, 2008 @ 11:00 A.M.
6.Solar and Aluminum Screens, B080111DR
Opens: February 19, 2008 @ 10:00 a.m.
Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

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BASS The White Trash Cowboys are looking for experienced rock bass player to help showcase new CD. We are currently building our live band to play our 12 song CD which was recorded with Bobby Blotzer or RATT on drums and Tim Hogen, of John Waite. Band is starting to promote the newly released CD; anticipating 3-5 big paying shows a month, plus lots of exposure opportunities. Bass Player needs to have live playing experience and pro gear. For more info look at our myspace page: myspace.com/thewhitetrashcowboys Call tbone at (832) 248-5302 or Bryan at (512) 694-8742.

DRUMS/PERCUSSION STREET LIGHT SUZIE Established Garage/Rock band seeks hard hitting, energetic drummer (21-28) Quality shows booked all over Texas and Touring soon. Check out tunes @ www.myspace.com/streetlightsuzie or call Ben at(512)791-6046

GUITAR Singer/songwriter looking for a guitar player. Foundation is fuzzy southern swamp rock with blues undertones, along temple of the dog/black crowes vein. Previous project www.myspace.com/elbelb Jason 659-5847

GUITAR 50ish singer/guitarist needed for 60s/70s cover band. See online ad for more info. Call Jeff 512-535-6672.

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SERPENT RYDER
I am an exotic,attractive,healthy,relativ ely inexperienced 30smthng(who looks 20smthng). Like athletic,nerdy,and mystical types. Want to learn new things from straight and bi men. I like biting but not blood. Any Ideas? **exotic_artist_exploring**, 31, 📷, **#124881**

INTOXICATING SENSUAL SADIST
Live the fantasies you never thought possible with a brutally attractive Dominatrix. I have years of playtime experience and an incredible arsenal of toys. Are you my next willing pet? **DominaShannon**, 29, 📷, **#124643**

MALE BODY LOVER
Looking for a "friend" not just a hookup. Someone who is outgoing, an outdoor lover, intelligent and maybe a bit of a nerd. **rockett2222**, 34, 📷, **#124473**

YES MASTER
Want someone to take charge. Sex in public. When there is the thrill of getting caught. Sex in front of others, either aware or not really turns me on! **LANAWIL**, 52, ☎, 📷, **#124093**

MISS E
I just wanted a $150 gift card from FORBIDDEN FRUIT... Hopefully I get one... Other wise this profile is for fun. I am from Austin but stay in Chicago now... **mmcchr05**, 23, 📷, **#124037**

GODDESS OF LOVE
I enjoy intellectual conversation with company and demand respect from men. Ultimately, I want someone to genuinely display interest in getting to know me. **lolita**, 27, 📷, **#123960**

CUTE BI-CURIOUS FEMALE
I am looking for someone around my age group, no older than 34. Experienced or inexperienced. Must be attractive, either Latina or Caucasian and be around my same weight. **austingrl07**, 23, 📷, **#123569**

REWARDING DOM
Looking for a consistant submissive,not a one time experience. Would like to meet them before anything sexual obviously. If you are intrested, please feel free to contact me. **TomorrowsWorse**, 23, 📷, **#123509**

INSATIABLE, OPENMINDED, SEXPOT
SWF seeking SWM for???? looking for fun. **Austinnymphoo**, 35, 📷, **#121617**

AUDACIOUS BEAUTY+ BRAIN
i see beauty beyond the orthodox vision of american eyes and seek someone with a strong sense of identity and awareness of the world willing to explore sensuality and sexuality. **SymposiumLover**, 20, 📷, **#119431**

LET'S GET NAKED!
The weather is heating up and the cloths are coming off. We are interested in meeting new friends to explore! We are fit and fun. Questions? **CasualCaress**, 28, 📷, **#124911**

LET US
I am 32 and bi. He is 34 and we want a women to pleasure over and over.We do all the work. We are open to a lot of things. **sassiepatties**, 32, 📷, **#124910**

MRS. SEXII
Me 29 Him 26, me 130 him 250.We like to drink and have fun. We are lookin 4 a female that likes to do the same. **dat1**, 29, 📷, **#124883**

WANTING SOME FUN
Young couple seeking a third for some fun and play. This would be a first time for us but are excited and looking forward to some fun. **maryagogo**, 18, 📷, **#124721**

SHARE OUR BIRTHDAYS
We're a couple of old hippies who don't feel or act old.Butterfly very sensual and beautiful soul.Dog is into music. Looking for bi female for all night 3-some birthday celebration. **Butterflyanddog**, 50, ☎, 📷, **#124509**

HORNY HISPANIC CPL
Married Hisp. cpl seek adult encountrs. Mostly MFM, at times ply alone. She wants clean cut, endwd, Hisp. men 32yo>. Both 40, DDF, avg lks, 5'6", 190#, clean cut, endwd. **115536**, 46, 📷, **#115536**

LETS GET HIM
Hello, we seek another man in the bedroom, clean cut, professional, no tattos to get me good while my man is forced to watch. **hotvixen**, 31, 📷, **#124454**

BI COUPLE LOOKING
attractive, expierenced couple seeking bi couples or single bi individuals for erotic play. lots of fun, like to play dress up, love heels,and naughty. big on bedroom eyes, great smiles. **playfullpair**, 33, 📷, **#124429**

THREE IS COMPANY
Attractive African-American couple looking for another to female to join us in spreading a little "holiday cheer". Be ready to please, I guarantee you will be. **Threeiscompany2**, 23, 📷, **#124414**

FIRST TIME COUPLE
we are a couple in love but wanting to expand our sexual pleasures. this would be our first time but we are very open minded. We're in our 40's. **080764**, 43, 📷, **#124403**

SURFER GIRL
Looking for other hot girls to play with. **OceanGirl**, 30, 📷, **#124754**

ATTRACTIVE, BI-CURIOUS FEM
Bi-curious, inexperienced, attractive, slender fem looking for a single bi-fem for friendship – & discreet, sexy encounters, dancing. Looking for height/weight proportionate, outdoorsy, fem girl adventures. **Ruby**, 31, 📷, **#124362**

DISCRETION WITH BENEFITS
Kinda-bi looking 4 same.No couples.Just party and play together. Love girl kissing & playing grab ass. I am pretty, femme and looking for the same; no make up, waifs ok. **Izzy11**, 31, 📷, **#117594**

LESBIAN LOVE
I'm a petite fem girl looking to mess around with similar. Preferably around my age and no strings attached. **heybaby**, 19, 📷, **#123524**

KINKY BOOK LOVER
I'm just a kinky nerdy girl looking for some kinky nerdy sex. Can you flog me while you make me conjugate Latin verbs? If so, we should meet! **Plagosa**, 25, 📷, **#123241**

ANY SUGGESTIONS?
5'3, 145, athletic, Brn/Brn, MWF. Laidback, flexible and love to laugh. Seeks discreet, fun and safe sexual encounter(s) with a woman. **Pierce**, 27, 📷, **#123112**

ATTRACTIVE, INEXPERIENCED, BI-CURIOUS
Attractive,mid 40's/5'3/110lbs,hispanic female,married d/d/free,looking to explore with another woman also bi-curious and inexperienced.Prefer attractive, d/d/free,open minded, height/weight proportionate hispanic/caucasian female. Must be willing to occasionally include my shy handsome husband. **davn**, 47, ☎, 📷, **#120088**

GIRL PLAYMATES
Experienced sexy bi hottie looking for other femme hotties to play with. **Catwalk**, 30, 📷, **#119900**

SEEKING SWITCH PARTNER
You-looking for fun first and formost with no pre-conceived expectations. US: Just average people looking for an above average time ;) Prefer sf, couples ok. Inexperienced welcomed. Honesty refreshing. **Bifemaustincpl**, 31, ☎, 📷, **#121712**

FOOT/WS SLAVE
Seeking straight or bi masculine, slim buddies who love to be spoiled with foot massages. If your interested in either foot massages, write me. **MaleFootSearch**, 46, ☎, 📷, **#123872**

TICKLE THERAPY
Need a good laugh? Expert tickler will use his wicked light touch everywhere from armpits to toes. Cute, smart, easy-going, respectful, and thorough! Can email a pic on request. **feather_fingers**, 40, ☎, 📷, **#122033**

SEXUAL ARTIST
Write if you want to know a well-rounded, intelligent, thoughtful, sexy man. I enjoy well-rounded hispanic, black and italian men. Low maintenance kind of guy. Casual encounters are fine. **cookster**, 48, ☎, 📷, **#121616**

HOTGUY LOOKING FOR
Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discret encounter and a relationship with a Top guy. I am discret Open to new things with guys around my age or youngers.46yrs. **antonio_3638**, 43, 📷, **#118402**

DARKSHARK
Looking for girls that love to push the law, streaking, flashing, ect..., Something about it truns me on, email me, we could have some fun. Truth,. **truthandare55**, 22, 📷, **#124927**

HOT NAKED TICKLING
BiWM seeks a nice guy or girl who likes mutual erotic tickling. 33, 6' 0", 165#, DDF, Br/Hzl, safe, sane, playful, intelligent. Seeking slender, white, 18-35, DDF, friendly. LTR possible. **austintickling**, 33, 📷, **#124633**

MR ORAL LOVER
My ideal T Girl has medium to large breasts, is submissive, likes the bottom, is passionate, and has an oral fixation. **whiteknight**, 47, 📷, **#123510**

ROCK STAR
wild and wet and ready for who every who want it can get it's just like that. **RICHBOI69**, 20, 📷, **#124735**

PLAYTIME
I am a playfull man looking for others to open there minds and lets have some fun. **Sowrong**, 48, ☎, 📷, **#119751**

MAN'S LADY'S MAN
Handsome, classy, sensual lady's man who loves to be a soft, silky man's lady. Seeking couples and women for a walk on the wild side in my sexy French lingerie. **Pantyboy**, 42, 📷, **#123387**

SUB BI MALE
Experienced, kinky, submissive, bi male, into almost everything! Sane, safe, DD free, descrete, nasty, kinky and looking to play! **subslut**, 44, ☎, 📷, **#122208**

TXSIZELOV'IN
I'm looking for fun. Play well with others, easy going and a big smile. Open to try anything once. If I like, I did it again and again and again. **BigSmileKeith**, 43, 📷, **#122157**

WACO SUBMISSIVE MALE
I am an athletic, ddf, bisexual male that is single. I am more of a sub/bottom type and I seek to play that role with males, females, couples, and TV/TS. **biguywaco**, 49, 📷, **#121961**

SEXY CROSSDRESSER
Sexy Crossdresser looking for force feminization to teach me the proper ways of womanhood. I have sexy B cupped breasts. Love lingerie, Corsets, Girdles, ect. I'm open to anything new. **jackie66**, 41, 📷, **#122825**

CROSSDRESSER ISO GIRLFRIEND
I am a very passable and kinky crossdresser. I am bisexual, but prefer women. I'm primarily looking for a girlfriend, but occassional play partners and friendships are good, too. **kinky_violet**, 26, 📷, **#120083**

SUBBOTTOM SEEKS TOPS
Submissive Bottom looking for other men to play with. Luv to cross dress if you like that. Safe play and DDF required. **jess53**, 54, 📷, **#116914**

SEXY TS
i'm a very sexy, very hot passable transsexual. i'm 5'10" 145 pounds with sexy hormonally induced breasts. i'm very classy, too, and dress very provocatively. i'm 28 years old. **nicole_anais**, 30, 📷, **#115140**

BLONDE SHEMALE TOP
Hot Blonde TS girl, likes to have late night (no strings) fun. Seeking HOT FIT WHITE Guys that like whats going on between my legs. **BlondeHottie**, 33, ☎, 📷, **#101055**

OUT
Just looking for a freaky lady,or ladies who are up for a challenge.... I want to see if I can drive you crazy , while I tease, and tickle. **bfunk**, 30, 📷, **#124947**

SEARCHING THE NIGHT
I am looking for a FWB casual relationship for sexual experimentation and pleasure. I would also like to maintain discretion. Email me if you are interested! **Jaja**, 22, 📷, **#124934**

LOOKING FOR FUN...
Hey there ladies, I just stumbled upon the site and I am very much interested in finding someone with the same interests with a possibility of some adult fun. **space_monkey**, 28, 📷, **#124912**

JESSIE_BELL

DADDY?

I'm easy. I like sucking thumbs, fingers and various parts. I like strange suggestions, snuggling afterwards and being noisy. I like all shapes and colors, genders and backgrounds. I like a little jiggle, and I like to wear my big black boots. Let's chat a little and try each other out. I'm Looking for the ultimate bed mate, creative, funny,freaky, sweet, naughty and skillful. Am very athletic, artistic, cute, strong and personable.

read the rest of JESSIE_BELL's profile or enter your own profile for FREE online at austinchronicle.com/easystreet

THE LUV DOC

KLBJ's Pleasurefest • Fri., Feb. 1, 7pm • La Zona Rosa 612 W. Fourth , www.klbjfm.com/pleasurefest

If you can listen to KLBJ's sausagefest morning show without wanting to put a fist through your windshield, then Pleasurefest '08 is probably going to be right up your alley, especially if you're thinking that "up your alley" is some sort of clever homo euphemism for your tradesman's entrance. Whether you're willing to admit it or not, by listening to the KLBJ morning show you're showing solidarity with the devil-horns tongue-flick crowd. You may not drive a louvered window Camaro or a wallet on a chain, and you may not rock it in a wife beater, halter-top, or Kentucky Waterfall, but in your heart of hearts that's how you'd like to roll. You may not blow your lunch money on Hooters, Bikinis, Twin Peaks, or the surf and turf at Sugar's, but as long as you're eating, why not enjoy a little eye candy as well, right? And when it comes to sex, you're the type who likes to explore every facet of your sensuality – ideally in less than five minutes with your pants at your ankles. What you don't know or haven't tried you can surely fill in with a quick visit to your favorite Internet porn site. After all, who could possibly know more about pleasure than porn stars? Anyone who has ever watched porn knows that the actors aren't really acting; they're truly wracked with violent, shuddering spasms of pleasure – well, after a few tortuous minutes of obligatorily contrived "need-a-plumber/let-me-see-your-tool" setup. The problem with the Internet is that it involves literacy – computer literacy at the very least – which isn't your strong suit. You're the type of person who learns best in a 3-D, interactive environment, which makes Pleasurefest just the ticket for you. Instead of sitting at home painting your desktop monitor with pearl drops, at Pleasurefest you can actually meet and take pictures with porn star Brooke Haven. Is that her real name? Are those things really real? Does she really get into it like she's acting like she does? Those are just a few of the questions you won't remember to ask in Dale and Bob's Ask a Porn Star session. Don't worry, there's plenty more to be dumbfounded by as well. There's also "Miss Maulie" in her giant martini glass, a "gravity defying pole demo" by Mercy Killings, a lingerie show by Tabu, burlesque performances by Kitty Kitty Bang Bang and Southern Sirens as well as cash giveaways and more. All told, there's probably nothing you're going to take away from this deal other than some unrealistic expectations about the opposite sex that will undermine any chance at a meaningful relationship therewith, but you're probably going to have a kickass time anyway. And if the legacy of this fest is you spending more time shellacking your computer screen instead of being out on the streets procreating, then mission accomplished, right?

austinchronicle.com/easystreet

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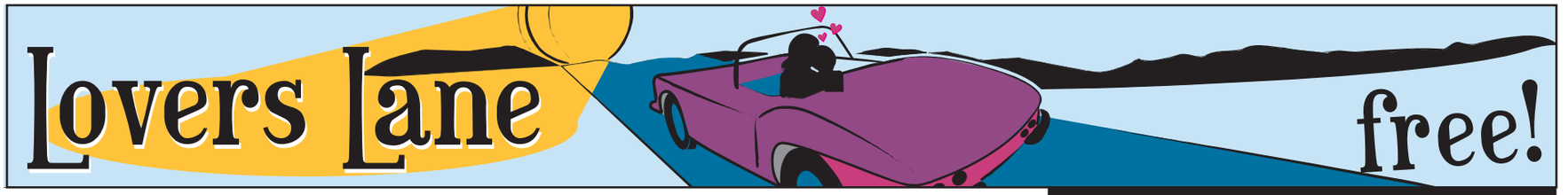
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women SEEKING men

SWEET AND SEXY!
The girl next door, the woman of your dreams and more then you ever knew you wanted. I am available to love you well. Laugh and smile with me! **Sweetsarin**, 28, #124907

SWEET, INTELLIGENT, ECLECTIC
I am a positive thinker and a creator of possiblities. From Europe, I like music , would like to try dancing, loves art, intelligent movies, dogs. **Frenchladybug**, 52, #124888

BEAUTIFUL BBW AVAILABLE
Straight, love to be spoiled, BBW, 40, long hair, blue eyes, 5'6",interested in monogomous male with no size issues, single and looking for more than a "good time." **CovergirlBBW**, 40, #124878

OFF THE WALL.
I'm happy and silly with low maintenance. My passions are my grandson and travel. One day I would love to visit Australia and observe Tazmanian Devils. **Fiasco**, 50, #124867

AM MISSING SOMEONE
I am a flexible, easy going, spontaneous, playful,interesting, and affectionate person. I feel I'm attractive physically and am adventurous.Love history and traveling. Get in touch. Let's see if there's chemistry. **Marlene222**, 56, ☎, #124749

HEY HATERS
I enjoy eating, shopping, and dancing with nice people, but not fat. I like puppies and industrial music. I've been asked to be in music videos. **candybits86**, 21, #124825

HELLO :)
If you nice I am nice. If you are a bitch then I'm a bitch. I like to go to Elysium on sat nights and Huts burgers before ;). **catacombk1tten**, 21, #124824

BACK IN AUSTIN
Really great to be back. Looking for fun people to hang out with in this brilliant city. Music? drinks? Town Lake? Literary events, let's go. **reisegrrl**, 36, #124646

GRACEFULLY AGING HIPPIE
Creative,active,laid-back,easy-going,good sense of humor,looking for friendship, companionship,more with the right person. **monah_ltx**, 50, #124812

HIPPIE CHICK 69
Why don't we hang-out. Who know's, I might be "The one." You'll never know if you don't get in touch. **Longhorn-Dropout**, 22, #124800

22 HISPANIC
Hi my name is Veronica, I am a bi sexual woman, who is currently seeking another beautiful woman, who is a bi sexual. **beautifulsmile**, 22, #124756

AND LOOKS TOO
ISO S/DM likes conversation, Hill Country, food, witty lady to share with. I'm 45, look 30s, kinda smart too. Bring brain, sense of humor; let's have an adventure! **WhiteRaven**, 45, #124674

HARDWORKING, BOLD, INDEPENDENT
I generally focus on people's positive characteristics and enjoy making new friends. I would like to meet people that enjoy live music, beach and the great outdoors. **hrml3**, 51, #124727

OPEN MINDED FUN
I am just a girl looking for someone that likes music,to hangout, watch movies. I don't like people that hold you back or doubt you. **nichole05**, 23, #124680

COUNTRY GIRL
I am a smart and outgoing person. I love to do just about anything but no heights. I love going to sports events (especially football games HOOK 'EM HORNS). **Firecracker**, 22, #124675

READY FOR ADVENTURE
Seeking adventure and companionship with a compatible mate. **Gwendolink**, 50, #124651

SOMETHING REAL. &FUN.
Down to earth, love outdoors, travel, music, friends. I am cute, great smile, easly to talk to. Looking for a guy that can be understanding, fun, have his own life. **julesps**, 34, #124628

CAROLINA HARDCORE ECSTASY
The large print giveth, the small print taketh away. **Albondigas**, 37, #124635

SPRINKLE OF "SUGAH"
Attractive,strong willed,semi retired model, seeking romance, fun times and tour guide to help get settled in new town.Easygoing,drama free.If you don't sweat the small stuff,we're off to a great start! **MizSugah**, 45, #124629

AFFECTIONATE GUY WANTED
Female from Round Rock seeking heavyset catholic 18-25 yr old male; must be affectionate and open-minded. **Amyjustspelleddifferent**, 18, #124606

SCISSORTAIL FLYCATCHER
I am just a girl looking for someone to share my heart with who doesn't mind my dog sharing the bed. Sing to me and I'll melt at your feet. **Lucypie**, 22, #124605

MANY MORE ADS ONLINE!
austinchronicle.com/loverslane

men SEEKING women

JUST SEND IT!!
People dabble too much in trying to explain themselves.. so i'm not gonna try. If you really want to know me then lets meet and I can tell you. **TravelwithoutBoundaries**, 35, #124942

BORED
Im Just Looking For Someone I Can Spend Some Time With And Be Happy With. Not Someone Who Will Always Put Me Down. **Namehere**, 20, #124941

"FIT", "FUNNY", "FANTASTIC"
I'm a charming, honest, attractive, modest, single man returning to Austin after 10 years in Vermont and Arizona. I'm looking for a special woman to explore it with. **livingin08**, 35, #124940

SWEET, HONEST, DRIVEN
seeking someone with goals, clear communicator, likes to have fun, wont make me their everything, but can be a companion. Im 27/m working professional, love dogs, laughing, fun, idiosyncratic people. **Fuzzy_Dunlop**, 27, #124939

INTELLIGENT, SARCASTIC, PERTY
Hello... I am a 22 year old musician who just moved to Austin from Southern California looking to date casually until I find the right girl... **DNYJMS**, 22, #124938

NO RESPONSIBILITIES
I want women of all ages and back grounds. If your a woman and you want to see a younger man who's interested in you, then I'm your guy. **ILOVEIT**, 24, #124932

LOOKING FOR FRIENDS
Easy-going guy who likes to cook and enjoys spending time with friends & family. New to Austin, & still discovering the city. Enjoy indoor & outdoor activities. **alexfox**, 30, #122296

SOFT, KIND HEARTED
crazy,funny,optomistic.im shy.romantic. straight forward and honest. GAME is the last thing I would concider a relationship to be.So if it starts off as a game then when does it end? **itsallaboutyou**, 30, #124898

HOWDY!
I'm silly and enjoy cracking jokes with friends. Also watching Cowboys/UT games, Rockband, music, Alamo drafthouse, ect. I'm fun and can make friends easy. **howdy512**, 30, #124884

WOOKIN FOR WUB
I'm intelligent, caring, empathic and kind. Seeking a friend, companion, perhaps relationship in that order. No smokers, please. **passinby**, 59, #124874

WHATS FOR BREAKFAST
I'm 35.I'm looking for friends maybe more.I'm looking for someone with a sense of humor,open-minded,likes to have fun every now and then.And also likes to spend quiet nights at home. **albert316**, 35, ☎, #124879

CITIUS, ALTIUS, FORTIUS
It starts with a dream. Dreams are how we figure out where we want to go and life is how we get there....always allow time for traffic. **THUNDERKISS**, 24, #124871

ENERGETIC, CREATIVE, SUPERHERO
I love life including everything active, artistic, and interesting. I take good care myself. I work a lot sooo thought this might help meet some folks. **krisman**, 24, #124869

WOWZERS
I'm looking for action and adventure. Which could be anything from camping to jumping from bar to bar. So if you share my interest's then don't be scared. **coobreaze**, 27, #124868

SHY QUIET GENTLEMAN
I'm a Cancer, which explains my compassion. I'm a sensetive person who likes to cuddle and spend time together. **Tamashii**, 41, ☎, #124866

MUSIC, ART, LIFE...
just email me and ill answer any questions or just talk... i love meeting new people. **MobRocker**, 19, #124854

FUNNY METAL GUY
Work alot and dont get out much hoping to meet some cool people and have a good time. Music, comedy, old cars, art, and dive bars. **Willy13**, 24, #124850

HANDSOM, FUN& HUNG
Vulger I know but it got your attention... Friends say I am: Honest, Reliable, Funny, Supportive, the Planner, Leader, Maybe Crazy... Family says I am: Hilarious, Helpful, Thoughtful, Independent, Stable... **King_without_a_Queen**, 31, ☎, #124846

ROUGH EDGES
i am an honest, loyal, hard working dude that would like to meet a fun lovin woman with a good head on her shoulders. **jasonsouth**, 33, #124835

CREATE A PROFILE AND BROWSE MORE ADS ONLINE!
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women SEEKING women

ATTRACTIVE PROFESSIONAL
Skng woman that's attractive, professional,with class.Women are so beautiful,smell good,soft.Want to try to form a healthy,loving,erotic relationship or friends with benefits. Pic taken a cpe of yrs ago - shorter hair. **crivas2**, 35, #124922

LONELY IN AUSTIN!!
Looking for a bi or lesbian lady to meet in Austin. **shynatasha**, 27, #124876

STEWED, SCREWED, TATTOOED
i'm vegan, independent, introspective, creative, love poetry, animals, tattoos, music and art. looking for a single vegan (or vegetarian) artistic, passionate girl to befriend, bewilder and bemuse. **roseblood**, 38, #124832

CRAZY SEXY COOL
I love hiking with my dog around Austin, traveling, read and create my own brand of art. I'm looking for friends first and possibly something more. **Shutterbug72**, 35, #124763

YOUNG OPEN ADVENTURER
I hope my ambition doesn't drive me crazy. I appreciate people, feel that everyone has something. I'm hot, cold, black, gray, white, good, bad, city, country. I like petite. **iamclrblnd**, 23, #124648

FEMME 4 RELATIONSHIP
My name is Sarah... honestly looking for a relationship 20 y/o.Long,Blk hr, Drk Brwn Iz, 5'4, 110,Brwn Skn Lotz of pics I hope you do to :D. **SekCBinX**, 20, #124419

JUST LOOKING
Looking for a long time too. Can't find the right Bi woman. Could it be you? Guess I'll just cross my fingers and see. I'm pretty picky, but not Dicky. **LoversInParadise**, 50, #124333

KINK_FREAK
So..I am a super cool chic, according to myself. I love the nightlife. I love gorgeous girls, not boy looking types. I'm always down for whatever. **tbozalicious**, 22, #124160

LOUDLOVINGLOSER
outgoing, talkative person.i adore my friends, family & pets.lover of all music & film genres.can't beat a good live show& when paired with good company, makes for the best dates. **rieslingowl**, 20, #124126

SIMPLE, FUNNY, DRAMALESS
Respectfully entirely too open minded. I process my thoughts before they leave my mouth. I like shows. I'm pretty funny, serious when needed, more glass full type. **Rebecka_Ann**, 24, #124084

men SEEKING men

FRIENDSHIP, DATING, LTR
Looking to meet a nice guy. Interests: camping, hiking, biking, theater, movies, conversation over beer, reading, canoeing, and traveling. Am politically progressive Younger guys, Hispanic men are a plus. **AusAbogado**, 61, #124933

JUST LOOKING
I like to go clubbing, watch movies, dinner, and just hang out. Must have a good job, vehicle, and not live with your parents. 27-35. **shannon1980**, 27, #124896

BES1971
GBM 6'0 175lbs black/brown. Told I have a nice smile. Like to cook/bake,sing,dance,travel, read,theater/movies,hiking/camping,swimming, bowling. Looking for W/H/M to start out as friends That may lead to LTR. Serious reply. **NIIU**, 36, #124639

PAPIMORENO
Slender, fit professional Latino seeking available fit guys for dating, open to a never-ending relationship. I enjoy dancing, working out, massaging, yoga. My best quality my huge heart. **124268**, 55, #124268

TAKE THE PLUNGE
Stable single guy looking to meet nice guys for fun, friendship, and possible long term romance. I enjoy biking, dining, cooking, as well as quiet times at home. **timebuddy**, 54, #121119

IS IT YOU?
Where have all the good men gone? I am hoping that you are still there and that you are looking for me too. GBM, looking for you. **Colorado**, 39, #123381

BROODING, SHALLOW, PEDANTIC
pragmatist seeks cheeky times. Competent, well balanced men over 30 preferred; short,meaty/husky/stocky, overly educated a plus. Not looking for hookups, instant romance, or teetotalers. Me: 30yo, 6'0, 185lbs, VGL-fit, masc. **Sarkany**, 31, #123189

CUTE ITALIAN LEO
I am a poet, a writer, a digital graphic artist, a Romantic, a Macintosh guru and a funny guy. I love the outdoors: camping, hiking, picnicking. Oh, and I'm HIV-positive. **panepinto**, 42, #121697

REFRESHING AND QUIRKY
I'm a fun and free-spirited person. I love experiencing new things, meeting new people, and living life to the fullest. If this sounds like you, we'll get along quite nicely. **nightblindness**, 24, #118639

AuntTupelo

PLEASED TO MEET ME...

honest, funny, responsible, loud, lazy, crazy, smart, occasionally passive aggressive, soft hearted, kind, morally imprisoned, slightly masochistic, goofy. i really try to be honest with myself and others. i'm too old to play little kid games and i'd rather not waste my time or anyone else's. i'm from a small town and have somewhat traditional values.i'm sarcastic and silly but have a very dry sense of humor so i often get those looks, you know, the ones that mean what the hell are you talking about. i feast on the details of life and if you tell me a story i will probably ask you about 20 different questions in the telling.

read the rest of AUNTTUPELO'S profile or enter your own profile for FREE online at
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SINGLE IN AUSTIN
Hopeless romantic, laid back, down to earth guy, interested in dating, new friendships, and more along the way. I'm looking for guys with good hearts, good head over their shoulders. **juan41381**, 26, 📷, **#115939**

IT'S ALL GOOD!
Looking for a boyfriend? I am 48 yr. old Hispanic with a lot to offer.I am looking for someone who is SINGLE and honest,no drugs,is that you? Let me know. **HusbandMaterial**, 50, ☎, 📷, **#115672**

ALASKAN TRANSPLANT
I'm more liberal than conservative, artistic and logical - easy to laugh, easy to apologize. I'm looking to meet a good friend who is fun, intelligent and kind. **TerriRedux**, 48, 📷, **#124937**

WHO ARE YOU?
honest, funny, responsible, loud, lazy, crazy, smart, occasionally passive aggressive, soft hearted, kind, morally imprisoned, slightly masochistic, goofy. **aunttupelo**, 32, 📷, **#124923**

ARTSCHOOL 4LIFE
A shy but good-natured transplant, I'm looking to meet folks who are both creative and kind-hearted. If you like to make, draw, design, and/or build stuff, I'm game. **julietg**, 36, 📷, **#123975**

MUSIC RANDOM INTERESTING
Ima random music fan who is looking for someone who likes 420, loves traveling, likes the museums/places to visit in austin and loves food. I counter balance food with workouts. **HappyRandom**, 22, 📷, **#124829**

JUST BEING ME
Its late, I'm tired, and my allergies are off the richter...the lengths we who luv Austin will go to just to stay in the city we adore. **RiotGirly**, 34, 📷, **#124585**

NEW TO AUSTIN
Im a outgoing gal who is looking for friends to hang with and show me around this awesome place..im big on 80's, love music, and love to laugh! **Catwoman**, 23, 📷, **#124467**

JUST friends

PUPPYLOVE A MUST
Well I pretty much like everything . **puppy_love_a_must**, 25, 📷, **#124587**

messages

REWARD FOR RETURN of beloved black fringed cape w/ blue applique & shell buttons; left in grocery bag on CapMetro bus 12/18.

MISS U PATRICK.

MOON PIC.DONT KNOW who it was for,but it made my day and reminded me of someone dear to me.thanks.

WE ARE INCOMMUNICADO. but i will always love you.

I WOKE UP this morning & remembered that i used to leave messages here.

JOHNNY SCHULZE-I LOVE you! Julia

CLOSE YOUR EYES. take a deep breath. before you open your eyes, choose to see beauty.

WHAYA EXPECT? HOES are hoes. Think man.-Mojo

SO LONG AGO the days stopped feeling the same. Every day gets harder, though still worth the pain.Since we last spoke, this week marks a year. Never seeing you ever again remains my greatest fear. A hello, a too soon goodbye, no expectations. I need to see you if only for a moment. LOVE K.

BECAUSE I MODEL, i wish you had wanted to photograph me.

T.S. YOU ARE truly the love of my life, thank you for being open to all that is happening. Marry me, still? E

a Shot in the Dark

SUBMISSIVE TO WOMEN
I am a submissive by nature to women. am very educated and healthy and handsome. I live in Austin and work a permanent job. Am very intellignet and nice. **When: Tuesday, January 29. Where: greater austin. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902616**

KOTTONMOUTH KINGS TAT
Mon 1/28, HEB anderson mill@620. Self chkout.I had on kmk shirt, you showed me yer tat.tried to catch u out side but no luck...wanna burn?!?!?!? **When: Monday, January 28. Where: HEB Plus @ 620 & Anderson Mill. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902615**

CRITICALMASS MOOOSTACHE
You wouldn't hold my hand at the 7-11& totally dissed me once your girl showed up-at-the-party. I-dig-your-facial-hair. Same.time same.place on the next critical mass ride??? I'll be looking for you! **When: Friday, January 25. Where: critical mass. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902614**

FANTASTIC INDONESIAN ACROBAT
EyesLikeFennelBulbs, HairFlowingLikeChewbacca's Sister. IAskedYouFor A Ud Light Because Apparently The B Is Silent. YouPutThe Up In Cupcake And The One In Honeysuckle. Lets Sip Espresso AndTalkAbout VeganDelicacysOutside A BotanicalGarden. **When: Monday, January 28. Where: Pluto. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #902613**

SPEED SKATER?
Attractive, brown hair- My friend commented about a party and you said you had "speed skates." Intimidated by your "superstar" claim but willing to take the risk . Drinks sometime? **When: Sunday, January 27. Where: RollerDerby. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #902612**

HI, TEXAN483
Saxon Pub. Saturday (02/02). 9PM. **When: Saturday, February 2. Where: Hoping to...Saxon Pub. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902610**

HOT WHOLEFOODS CASHIER!
You were my cashier on Sunday, January 27th. You checked me out, I checked you out. If you're a muscular, latin cashier at WholeFoods named Carlo, hit me up. **When: Sunday, January 27. Where: WholeFoods at 5th & Lamar. You: Man. Me: Man. #902609**

YOUR GORGEOUS!
At the Alamo Draft House, I slipped you a note on the back of my movie ticket,"will you be my girlfriend?". If you remember and feel the same, say YES! **When: Saturday, October 20. Where: Alamo on Anderson Ln. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #902608**

GOING 2PLAY WII
Hey beautiful with dark eyes. It was nice saying goodbye to you Sat night after the birthday party. Wish we had more time to talk **When: Saturday, January 26. Where: Birthday Party. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902607**

ROLLER DERBY FIGHT
Most amazing blue eyes, most captivating smile and fantastic mohawk I've ever seen. I stood behind you, short brown hair, hazel eyes. Wanted your number. Up for a drink? **When: Sunday, January 27. Where: Roller Derby. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #902606**

BOW WOW
White shirt sitting by the bathroom. I walked past you with a yellow blanket. I couldn't tell if you had a dog, but you can take me for a walk. **When: Sunday, January 27. Where: Eastwoods Park. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902605**

ALAMO THREE ACROSS
We sat next to each other Sunday nite. Me: two reds. You: one white. Stunning ending and you were off. Us: Coffee? Lunch? Drinks? Let's find another movie together. **When: Sunday, January 27. Where: Alamo S. Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902604**

LAS VEGAS FLIGHT
You: cute guy, great tattoo,black converse, next to me coming home from Las Vegas on Southwest flight. Me:Brunette girl who Should have asked for your number. Drinks sometime???? **When: Thursday, January 24. Where: Soutwest flight. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902603**

CHEAP TRICK SONG
you: cute girl at jackalope drinking vodka, st. eds student, liked my laugh, whose friend was preoccupied. me: lost your number... should have used the coaster. **When: Sunday, January 27. Where: Jackalope. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902602**

WEDDING CATERER (TATOOS)
you: heather from the wedding caterers on january 26, afterwards at the parish. you have red hair and tatoos.

me: spoke at the ceremony. talked with you at the bar after. **When: Saturday, January 26. Where: At a wedding, and at the Parish. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902601**

BIKER BUMMING CIG.
I asked you for a smoke saturday outside the Castilian.You gave me one then you said you liked my bike..Well I liked your smile .Maybe we could share another cig. **When: Saturday, January 26. Where: Castilian. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902600**

SHITPIT1/25, YOUWERE INDRAG?
i was the idiot in the purple hoodie. you were the freak in the dress (happy birthday?) talking about your jawbreaker tattoo. marry me. **When: Friday, January 25. Where: Die Schiesspit. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902598**

MUSIC MAN...
You: tall, blue-eyed, bespectacled private school music teacher. Me: there to answer your questions, directed you to Music Building. Single? Interested? Let's make music! **When: Friday, January 18. Where: Tx. State Univ. San Marcos. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902597**

PIGTAIL BANDIT HANCOCKCENTER
me pigtail bandit shot you at hancock center, you cute guy in blue pick up with element sticker ... meet me at a tattoo shop downtown! i WANNA SHOOT YOU! **When: Monday, January 21. Where: HANCOCK CENTER. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902596**

BANDIT ON 6TH
you- big teddy bear with glasses shooting people on 6th street with finger guns.please tell me the girl with you wasn't your girlfriend!. let's go shoot together!!! **When: Monday, January 21. Where: 6th street. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902595**

DJ SHADOW/CHEMIST BRUNETTE
You cute little brunette in a low cut black shirt, pulled back hair. I guy in crowd in backwards cap, standing next you, with jacket on arm, another show sometime? **When: Friday, January 18. Where: La Zona Rosa. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902594**

FALLING FOR YOU
17th you were riding your bike..i saw you fall and i wanted to stop to help..R Uok? i can make it better. give it a ride..opps i mean a go? **When: Thursday, January 17. Where: heading north on lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902593**

YOU COMPLETE ME
I never saw this coming.Where have you been all my life?I will thank Starbucks forever for bringing us together.,Ur babygirl **When: Saturday, December 15. Where: next in line. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #902592**

NORTH WHOLE FOODS
Both eating and on the phone,sat next to you. You had to wait for the rain to stop. Me:short brown hair,green sweater You:gym shorts,scruffy beard. See you again? **When: Thursday, January 24. Where: North Whole Foods. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902590**

POODLEDOG PONY PARTY
you: coveting pony posse. us: rocking your world. you ever wanna see sparkles again, show up at dogndduck this weekend, tell the barkeep "im a sucker". hands where we can see'em. **When: Sunday, January 20. Where: poodle dog. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902589**

DALLAS ORLANDO THURSDAY
We both got moved to the front seat, talked about books, nature, etc. Wish I had asked for your number, what about you? **When: Thursday, January 17. Where: american flight. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902588**

RECORD SELLING HIPSTER
You work at Waterloo,and I'm hoping to catch your eye.I'm the brunette who goes out of my way to get the Onion at Waterloo in hopes to bump into you! **When: Sunday, January 20. Where: Outside Waterloo Records. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902587**

ZTEJAS ON 6TH
Friday (1/18)at lunch. You: tall good looking man at bar. Me: tall, blondish w/tall man. We xchgd looks, I said Hey. You're the town lake biker guy right? Let's chat!? **When: Friday, January 18. Where: Z Tejas on 6th. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902586**

PARKING LOT LOVE
Caught my eye, as you were asking me for directions. Your lustful eyes almost made me drop my hippie food. YOU: soccer lovin'greasy mechanic. ME:luscious hawaiin in need of tune-up. **When: Wednesday, January 9. Where: s.congress HEB parking lot. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902585**

MARIE@TROPHY'S 1/12
I've never been given a fax number before. Marie, should I fax you? I think I am going to fax you. Soon. **When: Saturday, January 12. Where: trophy's. You: Man. Me: Man. #902584**

LUKE
I couldn't manage more than two sentences; you caught me at a bad time. You are stunning. Perhaps our paths will cross again. (you: Black hair, black coat, cigarette, session/redstripe?) **When: Sunday, January 20. Where: drinking and dancing. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902583**

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Brezsny for February 1 - February 7

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): You're reading a horoscope column that's designed not only for the benefit of true believers, but also for people who don't necessarily buy into the validity of astrology. If you're one of those people who enjoy my writing even though you're skeptical of my attempts to divine oracles from the planetary positions, I thank you for being willing to find value in an approach that your rational mind may regard as questionable. And I thank you for evaluating the information I present here on the basis of its usefulness rather than on where it originates. By the way, Aquarius, the attitudes I just described will serve you in good stead in your dealings with the whole world during the coming week.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Neither God nor the gods are dead, but they've virtually disappeared because so few people are capable of carrying on authentic relationships with them anymore. The materialist delusion rules our world: Millions believe that nothing's real unless it can be perceived by the five senses. Churches and temples are full of ethical people, but most of them have no clue about how to know or feel or converse with the divine presences. So what can the deities do, having been banished from our midst? Psychologist Carl Jung said the gods have no recourse but to worm their way into our lives as sickness and pathology. And that's how you may encounter them in the coming days, Pisces. But get this: As soon as you see through their distorted disguises and recognize them for what they really are, they can be themselves again, whereupon they will bestow the exact blessings you need in order to become a smarter version of yourself.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): *The Onion* newspaper reported on a South Carolina man who was so grateful for what God had done in the previous week that he put an extra $5 in the collection plate at church on Sunday. Brad Thaden was especially pleased with the nice weather and how well his kids had behaved. I expect that by Feb. 18, Aries, you too might feel the urge to give Supreme Being a tip or do whatever the equivalent might be in your world. Among the extra perks you could be blessed with: a deeper connection with a resource you've wanted to be closer to, the heating up of a promising alliance, a social upgrade that will make you feel more at home in the world, and a vision of where to go next with your ambitions.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): If you are a member of the Isoko people in Nigeria, you have three intimate spirit guides. Omo is your guardian angel. Obo, or "right hand," is the ally who helps you get things done. Ivri is a tough, gutsy, and sometimes combative character that pushes you to take a stand and fight for your rights. As an exercise, Taurus, I urge you to imagine that you have these three accomplices working on your behalf in the coming weeks. It's high time for you to forcefully lay claim to all of the vigorous assistance and collaboration that you deserve. While you're at it, ask a few actual humans to deliver their special favors to aid your cause, too.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): HappyWomanMagazine.com sought out several supermodels for advice about spirituality. "Buddhists have the best religion," said 6-foot-1-inch, 102-pound Ilize Bergeron. "They don't believe in heaven or hell or God, and they don't pray. Plus, Buddhism is so mysterious that you could probably fool your boss into giving you lots of random days off work for religious holidays. One more thing: It's the trendiest religion out there right now." In light of your current astrological omens, Gemini, you might want to draw inspiration from Ilize's perspective. In the coming weeks, you need to feed your spiritual side, but in ways that are fun, lighthearted, uncomplicated, guilt-free, and unburdened by concerns about reward and punishment.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): "Thunder is good, thunder is impressive," wrote Mark Twain. "But it is the lightning that does the work." According to my analysis of the omens, Cancerian, your job right now is to be like the lightning, even if other people's thunder is temporarily hogging the credit and the attention. It may take awhile, but your bolts of pure energy, not their noisy hype, will ultimately be appreciated as the most important factor in the group success.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Daniel Tammet is a savant who can quickly perform complex mathematical calculations in his head. Every number up to 10,000 has a special shape and feel for him. He experiences 37 as a lumpy, warm goo, while 89 invokes visions of snow falling. Although I don't normally have this relationship with numbers, I did get a vivid psychic vision of 77 while meditating on your current astrological omens. It appeared to me as a scene of two people bobbing and tumbling while wearing scuba gear and trying to make love underwater in a heated swimming pool. Assuming this is an oracle, what does it signify symbolically? Maybe it's time for you to seek a new kind of union in the depths. Or perhaps you should get more playful in your approach to sex. It might also mean you should enjoy playing with deep emotions.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): After studying your challenging astrological aspects, I decided to do a midwinter ritual in your behalf. Waking at dawn, I took a frigid, hourlong bike ride to the top of Mt. Tamalpais. As I ascended, I murmured a prayer: "I give the energy of this cold, hard labor to Virgos. May it inspire them to meet their own tasks with exuberant stamina." When I began the ride, I was miserably uncomfortable. Within 10 minutes, I had broken a sweat and was thoroughly warm. Soon the endorphins kicked in, and the climb to the top was blissful. That's the progression I wish for you.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): The planet's biggest annual orgy of pollination is about to take place. A million beehives from all over America and Australia are on trucks headed to a 600,000-acre patch of almond orchards in California's Central Valley. For the next three weeks or so, 40 billion bees will be in service to almond flowers as they facilitate the mixing of male and female reproductive materials. This scene could rightly serve as your metaphor of the week, Libra. You, too, are primed for a tremendous pollination event – a time of intense mingling in service to fertility.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): One goal of meditation is to empty the mind of its obsessively generated thoughts, rationalizations, and images. Alas, much of the media functions as a reverse meditation machine. Not only does it stir up your own mental clatter, it also floods you with the seething surge of other people's private pandemoniums. Furthermore, it delivers this rattling racket with entertaining words and brilliant color and crystalline sound, driving it as deeply into your psyche as your own flotsam. Keep this in mind throughout February, which is Clean Out Your Brain Month. Cut way back on your media intake. Snack lightly rather than gorging continually.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): "There are two things to aim at in life," wrote essayist Logan Pearsall Smith. "First to get what you want, and after that to enjoy it. Only the wisest of mankind achieve the second." As you have probably already guessed, Sagittarius, one of your main challenges in 2008 is to be one of the wise who accomplishes that second thing. And you're about to experience a major turning point in your ability to pull it off.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): "Personally, I would sooner have written *Alice in Wonderland* than the whole *Encyclopedia Britannica*," said Capricorn writer Stephen B. Leacock. I encourage you to adopt a similar attitude in the coming weeks. Unleashing your heated creativity will be more important to your success than gathering the cool facts. Being an irrepressible devotee of the wild mind will be more practical than marching in lock step to logical necessity.

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